

Inter-family talks mooted as likely way out for maid on UAE death row

DUBAI (Agencies) — A Philippines ambassador said Tuesday he was open to a meeting between the son of a man killed by a young Filipina maid and her parents in a bid to save the maid from execution.

Roy Seneres, the ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) told AFP he was "not ruling out the possibility" of such a meeting and might arrange one if ordered by the court, although none has been scheduled.

Faraj Baloushi, 24, urged an appeals court in Al Ain on Monday to uphold the death penalty against Sarah Balabagan, found guilty last month of the premeditated murder of his father Mohammad Al Baloushi.

The court had asked him if he would accept blood money instead, but he refused.

Mr. Seneres said he and other Philippine officials, including Abdul Wahid Bidin, an envoy of President Fidel Ramos, had their first friendly and informal meeting with Mr. Baloushi at the courthouse on Monday.

"I approached him after the hearing. He's a fine man. He shook our hands as if we were his friends," Mr. Seneres said.

But he stressed: "We did not discuss dhia (blood money). We didn't discuss anything with Faraj about the case. He's entitled to our deep respect. We know how he feels being the son of the man who was killed."

But asked if he would support a meeting between Ms. Balabagan's parents and Faraj Baloushi, Mr. Seneres replied: "I'm not ruling out the possibility. We might do that if ordered by the court."

"We're open to all solutions for the sake of Sarah," Mr. Seneres said.

But the ambassador added: "We're really pinning our hope on the sense of justice of the honourable court of appeal."

UAE authorities have said privately they were urging Mr. Baloushi to consider dropping his family's demand for the death penalty and accept blood money in compensation for the death of his father.

They will continue to make such requests until the "last minute," until the legal process runs its course, an official said on condition he not be named.

Such an approach is in line with Islamic law.

Mr. Baloushi said on Monday that he had been moved by the presence of Ms. Balabagan's family and pleas to save her from a firing squad but he could not abandon his family's demand for her execution.

'Difficult' appeal — lawyer

A lawyer for Ms. Balabagan said on Monday after the Islamic court adjourned her appeal against the death sentence that he expected her to escape execution but she might have to serve time in jail.

Salman Lotfi told Reuters that there had been some confusion when the maid made her appeal to the judges over the killing.

"We have a good case, but this will make it difficult to get her acquitted. There was confusion and this court will look at the same evidence carefully. I think her sentence will be reduced to three or four years in jail but acquittal will be hard," he said.

It is a retrial of an earlier court decision which sentenced Ms. Balabagan to seven years in prison for manslaughter and awarded her compensation after it concluded she was raped.

In the appeal, Ms. Balabagan repeated her claim to a three-judge panel that she stabbed Baloushi in self-defence after wrestling his knife away.

The case has infuriated the Philippines, sparking similar outrage to that which shook the country after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged in Singapore in March. She was hailed as a hero back home despite confessing to double murder.

Under tight security, women guards led Ms. Balabagan into the appeal hearing handcuffed and wearing a white veil. She looked anxiously from a courtroom cage at her parents and four-year-old sister, who flew from the Philippines to plead for clemency.

The judges cleared the court of the public and press after defence lawyers said Ms. Balabagan wanted to make a private plea.

The judges said she overstepped her right to defend herself in accordance with Islamic law, a conclusion that Mr. Lotfi said the appeal court could make given the number of times Baloushi was stabbed.

"He was stabbed 34 times. This could be difficult," he said.

Before the court adjourned, a Ministry of Information official tackled seven large pictures of Baloushi after he was killed on the wall of the courthouse lobby.

They showed a frail man who appeared to be in his early 70s lying on his back on his bedroom floor, his waist covered by a white cloth.

Crown Prince condoles family of student killed at school

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday visited the Abu Sumayya family to offer condolences on the death of their son Alaa Abu Sumayya, who was killed by fellow students at school and denounced all forms of violence in Jordanian society.

The Prince, who was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad, called on the Jordanian public to prevent such acts of violence, adding that violence was alien to Jordanian society and custom.

He said that the government and its institutions were determined to prevent any recurrence of such acts and determined to raise the stan-



dard of Jordan's educational institutions and guarantee a violence-free educational institutions.

Alaa, 15, was killed on Sept. 25 during school break. According to some sources, Alaa, a 10th grader and one of 1,100 students at the school, was rushed to hospital after being attacked by other students but died on the way. The concerned authorities were reported to have detained some of the suspected students for questioning.

Prince Hassan said that violence in any form was unacceptable, especially in schools and youth centres. He called on students to comply with regulations, refrain from committing violent acts and follow the principles of the Islamic faith in word and deed.

The mother of the bereaved expressed appreciation of Prince Hassan's visit and his condolences.

Oslo to extradite Ansari

OSLO (AFP) — The Norwegian justice ministry has decided to extradite Palestinian hijacker Soraya Ansari to Germany over her role in the seizure of a Lufthansa jet in 1977, the ministry announced on Tuesday.

Ms. Ansari, 41, was the sole survivor of a four-member gang which hijacked the jet on a flight from Mallorca, Spain to Frankfurt in Germany.

They demanded the release of 11 members of Germany's Baader-Meinhof gang, two guerrillas from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and \$15 million in ransom.

The justice ministry's decision confirmed a supreme court ruling on Aug. 8 that Ms. Ansari could be extradited to Germany.

The hijackers seized the plane over the Mediterranean on October 13, 1977 and it made several stops before ending up in Mogadishu, Somalia, where the hijackers killed the pilot.

Shortly afterwards West German commandos stormed the aircraft, freeing 87 passengers and the remaining crew and killing Ansari's three fellow hijackers.

She served one year in a prison in Somalia and spent 16 years on the run before being arrested in Oslo last year.

"Despite strong humanitarian considerations we have decided to go for an extradition, especially because the hijacking must be characterised as a grave act of violence," the justice ministry said in a statement.

Mideast remains biggest military spender — IISS

LONDON (AFP) — Middle East countries spend a bigger percentage of their GDP on arms than any other area despite cutbacks forced by low oil prices, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said in a report Tuesday.

From a total spending of \$44.5 billion in 1993, the combined defence expenditure fell to \$42.7 billion in 1994 and should level out at \$41 billion this year, the IISS said in its annual survey.

"The region spends more on defence as a proportion of gross domestic product than any other region," the report stressed.

Should the oil embargo imposed on Iraq five years ago be lifted, however, expenditure could drop even further as crude prices would be depressed for other oil producers in the Middle East and North Africa.

The institute said that if the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) set Iraq's production quota at 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd) that could lead to a 11 to 12 per cent fall in revenue for the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council — unless demand were to increase.

Already in relation to oil-rich Saudi Arabia "questions have been raised about the government's ability to pay for these arms purchases given the prolonged fiscal and current account deficits."

Riyadh acquired in one year 285 Abrams M1 tanks, taking its total fleet to 315 and doubled its contingent of Bradley fighting vehicles to 400.

Although some contracts have been renegotiated, none of them have been cancelled the IISS said, adding the

Rafsanjani in Dhaka

DHAKA (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived here Tuesday at the start of a four-day visit, the first by an Iranian head of state to Bangladesh since it split from Pakistan in 1971.

Mr. Rafsanjani arrived from Manila at the head of a 100-member delegation to a warm welcome at Dhaka's international airport, where Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted the Iranian leader, who was accompanied by his wife.

Later schoolchildren waved miniature flags as Mr. Rafsanjani drove in a motorcade to the downtown Bangabhaban presidential palace, where he was met by President Abdul Rahman Biswas and reviewed an armed forces honour guard.

Pro-Iranian Islamic groups set up Mr. Rafsanjani portraits and banners to welcome him, and plastered city walls with his picture.

Mr. Rafsanjani's Asian tour, which has also taken him to Vietnam, is being seen in diplomatic circles as a move by Tehran to strengthen ties with South and South East Asia.

An Iranian source said the Bangladesh leg was aimed at "boosting economic ties" and strengthening bilateral relations between "the two brotherly Muslim countries."

The entourage includes Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and several other senior government figures.

Bangladesh officials say they hope Iran will help set up a second oil refinery for the country in the port of Chittagong.

Mr. Rafsanjani is due to fly there Thursday to inaugurate a joint Chamber of Commerce between the city and the Iranian capital Tehran.

He will also talk to business leaders and visit Dhaka University to lay the foundations of a new building to house an Iranian language and research department, officials said.

The Financial Express daily said Tuesday that Iran was trying to use its strategic location on the Caspian Sea to end its isolation since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to available statistics Bangladesh, exported goods worth \$32 million to Iran, during fiscal 1994-1995, which ended here in June, including textiles, jute and tea.

NEWS IN BRIEF

7 Iraqis arrested on entering Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have arrested seven Iraqis who entered the country illegally on Monday, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. The seven said they wanted to escape what they called a tragic situation that had been created in Iraq by the Baghdad government. Al Anba daily reported. Interrogators were continuing to question the Iraqis to learn more about their motives in entering Kuwait. Anba added. An Interior Ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment. Kuwaiti media have reported an apparent upsurge in infiltrations following the defection to Jordan in August of two senior aides of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Iraq-Kuwait border posts have been closed to normal traffic since the 1991 Gulf war that ended a seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. But Iraqis have regularly infiltrated to smuggle goods or seek work or asylum in third countries.

Censorship on local press lifted in Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar on Tuesday said it had lifted direct censorship of the local press, although foreign publications would still come under watch. The authorities decided "to lift direct censorship imposed on the local press in order to demonstrate their confidence in the press, citizens and Qatari intellectuals." Qatari Information Minister Hamad Al Kowari said. The Ministry of Information had censored working in each newspaper to review reports and editorials before publication. Mr. Kowari urged the newspapers "to make good use of the freedom and respect its demands, objectivity and critical sense," the official Qatari News Agency said. It urged them to "respect Qatar's interests and foreign relations and preserve the customs and traditions of Qatari society." There are five newspapers in Qatar, including an English language daily. Mr. Kowari ruled out a lifting of the censorship of foreign publications, stressing "we stick to the values and principles of our society and oppose others infringing on them."

Iraq criticises journalists covering referendum

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday criticised foreign journalists as they began arriving to cover a referendum in which Iraqis are asked to endorse Saddam Hussein for another seven years as president. "Does Iraq need the accounts of these journalists, some of whom took part in the campaign against Iraq during and after the (1991) Gulf war?" the official Jumhuriyah newspaper asked. "Some Western journalists come to Iraq with preconceived ideas," the daily said. "Iraqis do not need the accounts of Western democracies, whose warplanes bombed Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. The choice of a president is the business only of Iraqis who do not need legitimacy conferred by people coming from empires who sucked our blood for decades and coveted all our wealth." The Information Ministry said more than 600 Arab and foreign journalists are expected in Baghdad for the referendum, the first in Iraqi history, which will be held on Sunday. Baghdad said it had sent invitations to all media organisations "even those who harmed 'our country' and promised them complete freedom to cover the event. Iraqis also invited 10,000 foreign observers for the poll."

Sudanese rebels hold relief worker captive

NAIROBI (AFP) — Rebels in southern Sudan have been holding a relief worker captive since Sept. 16, the relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) — Doctors Without Borders — disclosed Tuesday. It said it was "deeply worried" about the health and conditions of captivity of Stephen Kaman Gutuman, an MSF logistician being held by a Dinka militia commander Kumbino Kwanyin Bol. He was captured during a surprise attack on the village of Panthou in the northern Bahr Al Ghazal region, an MSF statement said. "All relief workers who were in Panthou had to flee on foot," it said. "None of the rescue missions were able to find Stephen, who did not manage to escape. Last week it was confirmed that Stephen is being held by Commander Keroubino and his forces in a location near Gogrial town." Mr. Keroubino heads a splinter rebel group which is fighting the forces of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Indian prime minister to visit Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is to arrive in Egypt later this week for an official visit that will include meetings with President Hosni Mubarak, state television announced Monday. Mr. Rao, who is to arrive Sunday, will discuss with Mr. Mubarak ways to boost bilateral relations, as well as common interests in regional and international issues, the television said. After his visit to Egypt, which will only last a few hours, Mr. Rao will travel to Columbia for a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement countries. Egypt and India are founding members of the group.

S. Arabia, Yemen draw up security accord

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen have drawn up a cooperation accord to fight smuggling and drug trafficking, the official agencies from the two countries said Monday. "The Saudi government has approved the signing of the accord with Yemen," the official Saudi agency SPA said. Yemeni Interior Minister Hussein Arab told his country's SABA agency that "the only thing left is the signature." A Yemeni diplomat in Riyadh said earlier in October that the deal would include the fight against terrorism, crime, drug trafficking and smuggling. Saudi Arabia has executed 183 people since the start of the year, most of them convicted of trafficking drugs. The two countries put past differences behind them in February when they signed an accord in principle to end an old border dispute. Riyadh recently allowed its employers to hire Yemeni workers.

Overhaul begins for Chephren, one of three Giza pyramids

CAIRO (AP) — Vacuums started sucking moisture-laden air from Chephren, one of the three famed pyramids of Giza, as the government closed the site Tuesday for a restoration project.

Vapour from the breathing of millions of tourists has taken its toll on the 4,600-year-old pyramid outside Cairo, drawing salts from its huge limestone blocks which weakens them.

A new ventilation system to fight high humidity will be installed during the three-

month project, said Abdul Halim Nouredin, head of the government's higher council for antiquities.

"They are sucking out the air with its high level of humidity using vacuums," he told the Associated Press. Then they will start restoring and fixing the walls and ceiling of the burial chambers and the corridors."

Up to two million visitors enter Chephren annually, each exhaling about 20 grammes of water vapour. The new

ventilation system will change the air inside the structure once every hour.

Chephren's overhaul will keep it closed for at least three months. Repairs will include fixing the cracks in its blocks and giving it a new lighting system and new stairs. Restorers will also open up a previously closed entrance into the pyramid, so that tourists can enter from one side and leave from another.

After Chephren is fixed,

restorers will start a similar project on Mycerinus, the smallest of the three pyramids, the only survivors of the seven wonders of ancient world.

The largest, Cheops, was restored in 1990.

Zahi Hawas, chief inspector of the Giza plateau, said the project marks a government plan to open only two of the three pyramids at any one time, allowing restoration work on the third.

The three pyramids are

named for pharaohs who ruled Egypt during the old kingdom's fourth dynasty, from 2613 to 2494 B.C. They were part of burial complexes designed to preserve the body of the dead leader and enable him to pass safely to the afterlife.

They are among Egypt's most popular tourist sites. The pyramids' treasures were stolen by grave robbers centuries ago, but visitors can still see the bare burial chambers and big stone sarcophagi.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Madeline
14:30 Ghost Writers
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Le Monde Enlouté
17:30 Juxy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 New Headlines
19:35 Anything for a Laugh
20:00 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 The Other American
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prim
22:45 Drama — Law and Order
23:45 Doc — Silk Road
00:30 Second Thoughts

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fair
05:23 (Sunrise) Dhur
14:40 Dhur
17:14 Maghreb
18:31 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swetlich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 62826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775244

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assioma International Church Tel. 625238

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop becoming 3 degrees centigrade below average with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 14/25

Aqaba 19/31

Deserts 12/29

Jordan Valley 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 28 Aqaba 32 Humidity

readings: Amman 36 per cent.

Aqaba 34 per cent.

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672

Dr. Yousef Al Fakh 791194

Dr. Mazen Nhal 830435

Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordous pharmacy 780336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 637661

Shimshani pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672

Dr. Yousef Al Fakh 791194

Dr. Mazen Nhal 830435

Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordous pharmacy 780336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 637661

Shimshani pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672

Dr. Yousef Al Fakh 791194

Dr. Mazen Nhal 830435

Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordous pharmacy 780336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 637661

Shimshani pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh 983023

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 894300

Public Security Department 630321

Hot Complaints 615800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Sri Lanka Tamil leader escapes assassination bid; 4 die in attack

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A key Sri Lankan Tamil leader narrowly escaped an assassination bid in which four of his bodyguards were killed during a ferocious gun battle at his home.

The attack on legislator Douglas Devananda who leads the largest Tamil party in parliament, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), was a serious embarrassment for the Colombo government, officials said.

Mr. Devananda said he suspected his arch rivals, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were responsible.

The Tamil guerrilla-turned-politician said he fought off the attackers for 20 minutes at his house late Monday. He believed there were five men involved, and at least one of them was seriously wounded.

"It is the LTTE trying to get me. They feel we are emerging as the alternative Tamil leadership. They had also attacked me in recent newspaper articles," Mr. Devananda told AFP.

He said he was slightly injured in the hand as he resisted the assault on his havelock road home in Colombo. The attackers used AK-47 assault rifles, a barrage of grenades and a 40-millimetre rocket propelled grenade, Mr. Devananda said.

"After fighting for about 20 minutes, I withdrew with some of my comrades. There were about five men who attacked us," Mr. Devananda said, adding that President Chandrika Kumaratunga had expressed her concern about the incident.

The attack could not have come at a worse time for the Sri Lankan government which is currently hosting the 41st annual meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The gunmen stormed Mr. Devananda's tightly-guarded home — considered till then a safe house — despite a tight security alert in the capital involving thousands of police and security personnel.

Colombo had been placed on red alert to provide security for some 350 foreign parliamentarians visiting the capital to attend the CPA sessions which end Friday, officials said.

Deputy Inspector-General H. M. Kotakadeniya said the attackers had escaped in a van and police sounded a city-wide alert to trace the get-away vehicle.

Forensic tests and post-mortem examinations of the four victims will be carried out Tuesday, Mr. Kotakadeniya said. A taxi, a bus and a police vehicle were all hit by bullets dur-

ing the late night battle.

Defence officials said the use of hand-held mortar bombs was a cause for serious concern and signalled that potential LTTE targets would have to take tighter security precautions.

Mr. Devananda acknowledged he was a "difficult customer for the LTTE. Anyway I think it was our lucky day." He said he was on the hit-list of the LTTE which has accused him of being a traitor to the cause of a separate Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

He said Mrs. Kumaratunga had promised to arrange extra security for him and his party which has nine seats in the 225-member National Assembly.

Mr. Devananda's EPDP has been supporting Colombo's drive against the LTTE which is waging a separatist war against Sri Lankan security forces. In 1989, three LTTE gunmen assassinated two top leaders of a moderate Tamil party.

The LTTE has been accused of eliminating leaders of all rival Tamil parties in a bid to lead the Tamil separatist campaign which began in 1972. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka's army chief Tuesday said his troops would capitalise on recent gains in the coming

weeks to capture the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

"Nothing is going to stop us," Lieutenant-General Geny De Silva told reporters after addressing troops at the army's 47th anniversary celebrations in Colombo.

De Silva said the army's latest offensive, codenamed "operation thunder strike", had put government troops in a strong position for a final attack on Jaffna town.

The LTTE have admitted losing 260 fighters since Thunder Strike was launched on Oct. 1.

"We feel (the Tigers have suffered) around 300 killed and a similar number wounded and more than half of them, seriously wounded," Gen. De Silva said.

"For a terrorist organisation of that size, this is a severe setback," he added.

Gen. De Silva said the army's aim was to bring the LTTE back to the negotiating table, "but at a better bargaining position for us".

The rebels broke off negotiations and a three-month ceasefire in April and resumed attacks on government troops. More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.

Gen. De Silva said an all-out attack to take Jaffna was on the cards but he did not give a timeframe. Military analysts said the offensive may have to be delayed because essential supplies were still being loaded at Colombo Port.

"The LTTE will try to protect Jaffna at all cost. We know they will not give up without a fight," Gen. De Silva said.

"If and when we take Jaffna, (the LTTE) will realise they have been thrown out of their stronghold and out of their heartland."

The army chief appealed to the rebels not to target civilian areas following an LTTE mortar attack on an old people's home.

The military said Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed nine inmates of a home for the elderly Monday when they fired shells on the town of Puttur.



Police officials examine an office smashed when unidentified attackers fired five rocket-propelled grenades at government headquarters in Karachi (AFP photo)

Detained MQM leader died in Karachi shootout, police says

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani police said three detained militants of the ethnic Mohajir Qanmi Movement (MQM) were killed Tuesday in a shootout.

They said Fahim Farooqi, alias Fahim Commando, a well-known militant leader, and two other MQM detainees died in a hail of gunfire after police took them to a house identified as an MQM hideout during interrogation.

Police accompanying the three detainees fired back at the house, where one person was later found dead, police said. It was not clear how many gunmen had been inside the house at the time. There were no police casualties, they added.

At the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, a doctor who

asked not to be named told Reuters that police had brought in four bullet-riddled bodies, all shot at close range.

The MQM, which has frequently accused the security forces of killing its militants in cold blood and then saying they had been shot dead in clashes, made no immediate comment.

However, Fahim Commando's death seemed certain to increase tension in the troubled port city of 12 million.

The deaths of the three detainees, who were arrested in August, followed Monday's spectacular grenade assault on a building housing the Sind provincial government.

The MQM has denied responsibility for that attack, in which half a

dozen rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the building, slightly wounding five people, starting fires, smashing windows and spreading panic in central Karachi.

The government and the MQM blame each other for violence that has killed more than 1,550 people in Karachi this year.

The MQM is fighting for more political and economic rights for Karachi's majority Mohajir community, who are mainly Urdu-speaking Muslims who migrated from India after partition in 1947.

Peace talks between the government and MQM began in July, but failed to make progress and are currently stalled.

Robert De Niro held for beating a paparazzi

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S. actor Robert De Niro was charged for assaulting a videotaping paparazzi in New York City, a police source said Monday. De Niro punched the camera-carrying reporter in the nose after he refused to hand over the cassette of the actor's exit from a Manhattan hangout, the Bowery Bar, at around 1:30 a.m., said police spokeswoman Valerie Saint Rose. The actor, known for his Oscar-winning role in Raging Bull, appeared in court Monday afternoon along with his lawyer to answer to assault charges. His spokesman Stan Rosenfield said De Niro was a victim of a new, more aggressive variety of "video-paparazzi" who provoke actors so as to catch their reactions on film.

Hurley to go Catholic, retreat to Ireland

LONDON (AFP) — Actress-model Liz Hurley is to turn Roman Catholic and retreat to an isolated corner of Ireland to escape press attention over her relations with film-star Hugh Grant, the tabloid Daily Mirror reported Monday. The Mirror quoted William Cash, said to be a friend of Hurley, as saying she had told him, "I've always wanted to convert. I'll be a very good Catholic." The paper said her resolve had been strengthened by a brief encounter with Pope John Paul II in South Africa, where she was filming recently. Mr. Cash also said Hurley, 29, had decided to quit the house she shared with Grant outside Bath, western England, to get away from the paparazzi who had been besieging it ever since Grant was caught by police in a clinch with a Los Angeles prostitute in June. "Not being able to go out to the greenhouse to get your tomatoes without being photographed is awful," he quoted her as saying. The couple's relations have been strained since the incident, and Mr. Cash said it was doubtful whether Grant would want to move to Ireland as well. "I have a clear memory of him shrugging his shoulders when I asked him at a recent LA party whether he was enjoying his country pile near Bath, and replying to the effect that he 'loathed the countryside', he was a city animal," Mr. Cash told the Mirror.

Ancient royal oaks spared at Windsor Castle

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Protesters who had clung to the ancient oaks near Windsor Castle won their campaign Monday as the queen's groundskeepers decided to let the trees be. A half-dozen protesters had camped in the park to protect the trees, and they had won support from locals and conservation organisations. The crown estate announced that 78 oaks, including 20 that dated to 1720, would remain standing in Queen Anne's Ride, a 3-mile (5-km) avenue between the castle and Ascot Race Course. The estate originally had planned to fell all the trees along the avenue, some of them diseased, and plant new ones. Prince Philip, the queen's husband who holds the title of ranger of Windsor Great Park, had been informed of the decision, said Gill Coates, spokesman for the crown estate. "This is very good news," said David Henshillwood of English Nature, the government-sponsored conservation agency. "We are delighted that the older trees in the ride will be left to provide a habitat for the rare insects and fungi that rely on them."

Bangladesh flood survivors return home to hunger, disease

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshis displaced by recent devastating floods have started returning to what were once their homes only to be confronted by hunger and disease, officials said Tuesday.

They said streams of flood survivors had left shelters over the past two days as the water receded from some of the 14 affected districts in the north.

"But there is virtually no structure standing where they can put their heads in, nothing left to eat, no crops in the fields," one official in the district of Dinajpur told Reuters.

"Many people have no money even to buy medicine," he said, adding that government relief efforts were inadequate.

More than 200 people were drowned or killed when their mud houses collapsed. Another 125 died of diarrhoea-related diseases caused by polluted water and rotten food.

The death toll, including those who died of disease, has already crossed 300 and could still go up as thousands of people are suffering from diarrhoea in the flood-swept districts," said one official who declined to be identified.

Witnesses said people brought to shelters by the army and other rescuers were reluctant to leave but had been asked by local authorities to vacate the camps immediately.

Local authorities said villagers should return to their homes and resume farming for which the government has promised money, seeds and other help.

Disaster management officials Monday said over eight million people had been hit by the latest floods, which washed away 625,000 acres (250,000 hectares) of crops worth \$175 million.

Actual losses could be much higher when the floodwaters fully recede from all areas, one official said.

Communications with many flooded districts were still disrupted, he told Reuters by telephone.

Floods in July and August killed nearly 250 people in the country's northeast, according to official figures.

ures.

Newspapers reported Tuesday that some people were still desperately looking for dry land.

The daily Ajker Kagoj printed a picture showing a man carrying his dead wife on a raft searching for dry land to bury her. The newspaper said Jharna Bibi, 22, died three days ago in Jaipurhat district.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, visiting the flood-ravaged north, alleged Monday that relief and health care efforts were negligible.

Most of the victims have not received a single grain of food aid or any medicine, "although the government is making a big fuss about relief operations," she told reporters accompanying her.

Villagers said they would not be able to resume farming, even though the government offered seed and fertilizer, because they had no animals to pull their ploughs.

According to preliminary estimates, nearly 10,000 cattle were killed by the floods.

Gorbachev: Communism failed, but so did Western policies

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that communism and Western economic policies have both failed, leaving two-thirds of the world's population struggling for survival.

He also warned that a return to the cold war is still possible unless countries recognise the forces that shaped the Soviet revolution that brought the end of the cold war.

At a meeting of former world leaders who held power at the end of the cold war, Mr. Gorbachev said the West missed a golden opportunity at the end of World War II to keep the allied coalition together. He said the West continues to misunderstand the reasons behind perestroika and glasnost.

"The division of Europe was a missed opportunity. The cold war is over, but the division could reappear," he said at a televised forum entitled "A World Transformed."

The meeting featured discussions involving Mr. Gorbachev, former U.S. President George Bush, former French President Francois Mitterrand, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Britain.

Mr. Gorbachev said a new synthesis for world order is needed going into the next century.

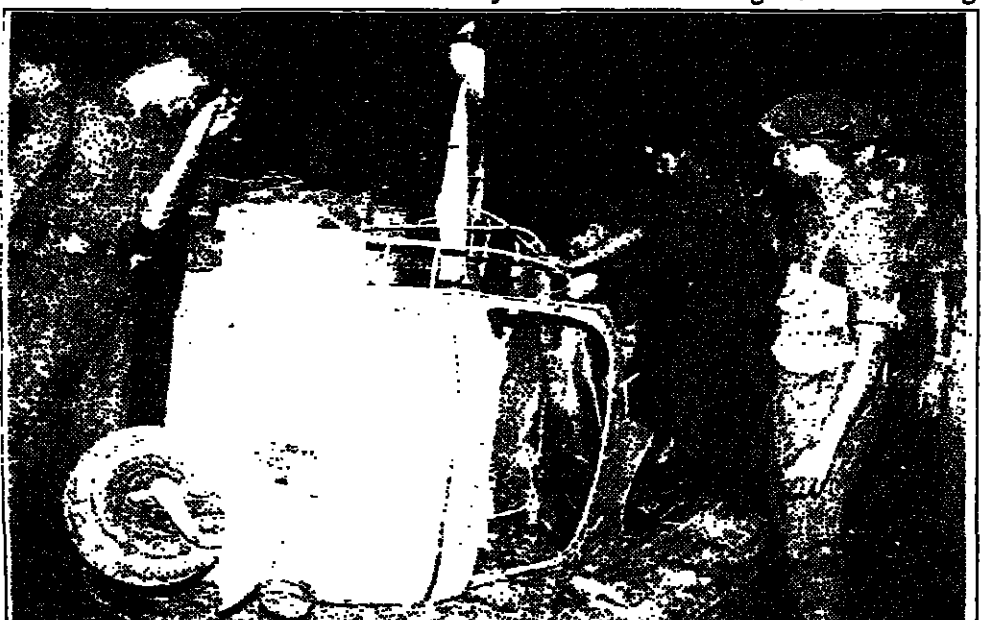
"Communism has failed, but it's also clear the existing (order) based on economic liberalism is only providing a decent living for one-third of the world," he said. "Two-thirds are living in difficult circumstances. If we don't care, we are dead politicians."

Mr. Mitterrand said a new generation is rising that will have to decide whether nationalism or world order is more important. He said the separation of Czechoslovakia is only the beginning of nationalistic breakups.

"Let us hope it is not contagious and spreads," he said.

Mr. Mulroney said it would be a mistake to disband the United Nations, saying Canada would be happy to take it if the United States does not want to be the host country anymore.

Mr. Bush said the United Nations is flawed, but should be preserved. He said the United States must continue discussions with Russia. "We neglect broad strategic discussions with China at our peril."



Soldiers examine a three-wheel taxi that was damaged during a bomb and machine-gun attack on the residence of a Tamil legislator in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo (AFP photo)

Juppe could be indicted soon — reports

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe could be indicted in connection with a housing scandal in coming days and be forced to resign, less than five months after taking office, press reports said Tuesday.

In the next day or two, Paris prosecutor Bruno Cotte could order a judicial investigation that might lead to prosecution of 50-year-old Juppe for a form of corruption, the dailies the Figaro and the Parisien reported.

If charged with abuse of influence, Mr. Juppe would have to resign under a rule confirmed by President Jacques Chirac when he was inaugurated last May.

Both newspapers quoted informed sources as saying that Mr. Cotte, who ordered a preliminary inquiry two weeks ago, had concluded that the offence of abuse of influence had been committed.

If found guilty, Mr. Juppe could face up to five years in jail, a fine of half a million francs (\$100,000) and exclusion from public office for life.

Mr. Juppe's brilliant political career was blighted two months ago by revelations that when he was a deputy mayor of Paris, he arranged publicly-owned apartments in the capital for himself, his son and daughter, his ex-wife and his half-brother at below-market rents.

An association of taxpayers alleged that Mr. Juppe abused his powers in 1990 when he set the rent for his own apartment. Since then, a new penal code has made it illegal for municipal councillors to rent municipal housing in big cities.

On Monday the Association for the Defence of Paris Taxpayers (ADCP) published a new document demonstrating that Mr.

Juppe, as a deputy mayor of Paris, had responsibility for allocating city hall housing when he leased the luxury apartment in a desirable area of the capital.

Last Friday Mr. Juppe announced that he was moving out of the apartment. He said his children would likewise move out of their homes.

The new evidence was delivered to Mr. Cotte by ADCP lawyer Arnaud Montebourg. It was a copy of the Paris City Hall's official gazette dated Aug. 29, 1989, signed by the then Mayor Chirac, which stated Mr. Juppe was "in authority" over the running of the capital's housing.

Mr. Juppe leased his 189 square-metre (1,890 square feet) apartment at a monthly rent of 12,000 francs (\$2,400), considered to be cheap for an exclusive district on the left bank.

Quake causes panic, damage in Italy

ROME (R) — An earthquake shook northwest Italy near the port of La Spezia Tuesday, causing panic and damaging buildings, the Interior Ministry said.

"We do not have any reports of casualties although checks are continuing," a spokesman at the ministry's Civil Protection Service said.

He said firemen evacuated children from a primary school in the town of Sarzana, at the epicentre of the quake just east of La Spezia, after plaster fell

from classroom ceilings.

The leaning Tower of Pisa, about 60 kilometres south of La Spezia, shook slightly when the quake struck at 7.53 a.m. (0653 GMT) but its stability was not affected, officials said.

The Interior Ministry said the tremor measured 4.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

The force is powerful enough to cause severe damage in a populated area but the spokesman said the tremor lasted only three or four seconds, reducing the impact.

"There was some panic but the situation is now calm," he said. "The situation is under control."

5 Muslim militants killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Five Kashmiri Muslim separatist militants were killed in a fierce gunbattle with Indian troops in a town north of here overnight, police said Tuesday.

Police said the firefight erupted after Indian army troops raided a hideout in the town of Sopore used by the pro-Pakistan Muslim separatist group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which has a number of Afghan mercenaries in its ranks.

The fighting in Sopore, a former militant stronghold, lasted more than six hours and left at least five guerrillas dead. No casualties were reported among the army.

Police said AK-47 assault rifles were recovered from the slain militants.

The Indian authorities accuse the Harkat-ul-Ansar of holding five Western tourists kidnapped more than three months ago although the abductions have been claimed by another group, Al-Faran.

One of the captives, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was killed in August by the kidnappers, who are demanding the release of 15 Muslim rebels from prison in exchange for the hostages.

Harkat-ul-Ansar has denied any involvement in the kidnapping.

JOB VACANCY

An international NGO is looking for 2 dynamic credit officers for a community-based programme. No experience required, business/economics graduates preferred. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply to: P.O.Box 9363, Amman 11191 - Jordan or fax to 612902, deadline - October 15, 1995.

Wor...
U.S. ...
Russia ...
Maced ...
SKOPJE, Mac ...
ingly ...
aimed ...
Greece ...
plung ...
Macedon ...
foreign ...
U.S. brok ...
month ...
diploma ...

commemorates a revolution in China in 1911 which led to the overthrow of the Manchu Ching dynasty and the dawn of the Republic of China.

SKOPIJE, Macedonia (AP) — Parliament overwhelmingly ratified an accord aimed at easing tense relations with neighbouring Greece and ending a crippling Greek trade embargo.

Macedonian and Greek foreign ministers signed a U.S.-brokered accord last month to end a four-year diplomatic standoff that threatened to destabilise Macedonia, a traditional tinderbox in the volatile Balkans.

Greece agreed to recognise the former Yugoslav republic and lift a trade embargo if Macedonia removed an ancient Greek symbol from its flag and formally declared that it has no territorial claims on the northern Greek province of Macedonia.

Greece also has strongly objected to Skopje's use of the name Macedonia, an issue that the two sides agreed to deal with separately.

Approval of the measures, considered crucial to tiny Macedonia's chances of economic recovery, went ahead despite an attempted assassination of President Kiro Gligorov last Tuesday in a car bomb attack.

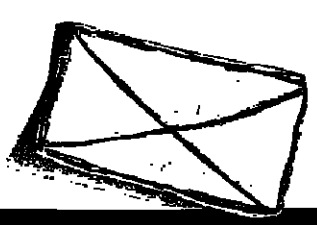
In a show of unity, the parliament voted Thursday to make the change in the flag required by the accords. The remaining legislation was passed Monday.

the parade.

The 53-year-old Kim, who is supreme commander of North Korea's 1.1-million-strong military, has yet to be formally confirmed in the

the parade.

The 53-year-old Kim, who is supreme commander of North Korea's 1.1-million-strong military, has yet to be formally confirmed in the



How, working secretly, officials swiftly sealed the cold war

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — Somebody should have won the Nobel Peace Prize, but no one did, probably because it seemed so simple at the time — deceptively so. In retrospect, the reunification of the German's five years ago Tuesday was the climax of an extraordinary year of intense international bargaining. More got done in months than usually does in decades.

Almost no other event in recent times matches the impact of that reunification. At a stroke, it produced a free Germany, sealed the end of the cold war and helped establish a new Europe. Yet few negotiations of such importance have been concluded so rapidly. It was a model of well-managed Western diplomacy. The handful of people who negotiated the deal rejected scores of often plausible-seeming alternatives, always aware that the wrong outcome could sow the seeds of a future war in Europe.

For the first time, the inside story — what the policymakers thought and did behind the scenes — is recounted by two participants, using interviews and secret documents. The account is in a new book, "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed," published by Harvard University Press and written by Philip Zelikow and Condoleezza Rice, who worked on the National Security Council at the time.

Their account turns up no smoking guns, no secret clauses, no unknown dimensions. But it conveys the sweeping changes devised by a handful of leaders and their aides as they sought to capitalise on a rare, momentary acceleration of history. It also captures the candid exchanges among leaders about long-range fundamentals in Europe, including:

- The rooted opposition in Russia to allowing the reunited Germany to stay in NATO.

— The degree to which the German question produced ambitious plans, still largely unfulfilled, for Europe and NATO.

— The pervasive concern to avoid a nuclear Germany.

The extraordinary negotiations were formally the Two-Plus-Four, meaning the two Germanys together with Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, the victorious allied powers in World War II.

In practice, the talks involved only Bonn, Washington and Moscow — and only small, secretive teams in each capital. They ignored their own professional bureaucracies, cautious about changing the status quo, in favour of political leaps to exploit this rare, momentous acceleration of history.

Secrecy had costs. Without guidance, the media were rarely pertinent. Conservative commentators — like Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who warned that the Germans would be "worse than the Japanese in Europe" — concentrated on warnings against trusting the Germans. But secrecy did help neutralise opponents of reunification: France, Britain, the Netherlands and the Soviet bureaucracy. They "only had attitudes, not an alternative policy," the authors recall.

The road to unification always led through Moscow, and it opened when the reform-minded Mikhail S. Gorbachev wanted perestroika, his system of liberalisation, to succeed enough that he would accept radical changes in Soviet foreign policy. Although it was not apparent at the time, East Germany's future suddenly became open to question in October 1989, when Moscow learned that East Germany owed \$40 billion to West Germany.

The Kremlin note-taker recorded: "Astounded, Comrade Gorbachev asked whether these numbers are exact." He did not have to explain that Moscow could not bail out a hopelessly indebted satellite that was considered to be the economic leader of the Warsaw Pact.

The East German regime's vulnerability was exposed a few days later with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. In one of history's biggest bureaucratic blunders, a flustered East German official announced that citizens would be allowed to travel and failed to cite any conditions. Crowds forced open the checkpoints, putting unification on the agenda.

Few people, even in West Germany, were ready for this change. Over the years, the existence of two Germanys had come to be seen as a quasi-permanent feature of the European landscape.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany had fostered the idea that cooperation between the two Germanys could be the starting point



Germany Day marked on Oct. 1 at Brandenburg Gate with a flag combining the federal states' colours

for a new era of reduced East-West confrontation in Europe. Polls showed most West Germans wanted to abandon the goal of unity. Even four months after the wall's fall, an astonishing 58 per cent of West Germans told pollsters that they wanted East Germany to continue as a separate state.

Different political instincts marked Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Horst Telchik, his main diplomatic adviser. They felt that East Germans, once free to choose, would demand to join free, prosperous West Germany, not pursue some uncharted course on their own — a view that the Bush administration backed unflinchingly.

The Bush administration already had been thinking about reunification. Robert Blackwill, who was handling European affairs for Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser to President George Bush, had suggested that renewed emphasis on unity might

counter Mr. Gorbachev's appeals and encourage Germans to continue putting up with U.S. nuclear weapons. Robert Zoellick, then top aide to Secretary of State James A. Baker, had concluded independently that Germany was gaining new leverage between the two superpowers, leverage that needed to be harnessed to the goal of a Germany free, whole and Western-oriented.

The Bush team had tasted diplomatic success six months earlier when a highly secret U.S. initiative on drastic troop cuts in Europe won acclaim at a NATO summit meeting. So secrecy came naturally to a new trio, Telchik-Zoellick-Blackwill, who stayed in daily contact.

"We only had one real worry all the time: I used to wake up in the middle of the night wondering when it would materialise," a U.S. insider recalls. This foreboding was that Mr. Gorbachev would offer Soviet blessing for reunifi-

cation in exchange for German neutrality, a development that would tilt the balance of power in Europe toward Moscow. A public Soviet offer along these lines would have appealed strongly to both Germanys, possibly enough to force Mr. Kohl to reconsider Germany's NATO status. That would have traumatised the U.S. relationship.

Moscow never played the card, apparently because Mr. Gorbachev and his team — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his key aide, Sergei Tarasenko — wanted to avoid a clash.

The key issue was not reunification. That was settled in March 1990, when East Germans voted massively for reunification, confirming Mr. Kohl's political hunch and shattering Soviet self-confidence.

The terms were negotiable for Washington and Bonn, except on a sole point: NATO membership for Germany. Months were spent getting Soviet acqui-

escence. The turning point came in June 1990 when Mr. Gorbachev visited Washington. By this time, the White House felt that the German question dominated all other diplomatic issues. The talks droned on until suddenly, in response to a suggestion from Mr. Bush, Mr. Gorbachev nodded agreement that a country should be allowed to choose its own alliances.

Extraordinarily, a leader had changed his mind at the negotiating table.

Startled, Mr. Blackwill passed a note to the president suggesting that he try to get Mr. Gorbachev to say it again.

The Soviet leader did, leaving his aides twisting in their chairs in dismay. Mr. Zoellick calls the scene "one of the most extraordinary" he has witnessed.

Mr. Gorbachev apparently was worn down by the common front presented by Washington and Bonn. Even though it was too late to block Mr. Gorbachev, Soviet conservatives, particularly the military establishment, which apparently had not grasped how far Mr. Gorbachev was going, have never forgiven Russia's civilian leadership.

To sweeten the pill, Washington pushed through a sweeping plan to make NATO seem less threatening and to show that NATO's gain helped Russia's security. That reorganisation failed to sway Russian hardliners and has since blocked deeper changes that strategists believe NATO needs.

Another by-product was spawned by President Francois Mitterrand's obvious distaste for reunification. The mood in Paris had sunk to near-despondency. As a U.S. diplomat reported to Mr. Bush, "Gone is the vision of a Europe commanded by equals in Paris and Bonn, with German economic superiority offset by France's nuclear capability."

To salvage the badly strained Bonn-Paris bond, which was needed to reas-

sure the rest of Europe, Mr. Kohl sent Mr. Telchik to Paris for secret talks that produced a joint call for economic and political unity in the EC.

This initiative won European support for reunification and led to the Maastricht treaty.

All along, U.S. officials stressed their view that a united Germany's membership in NATO would lower nuclear tensions in Europe, not least because the alternative, a Germany with no security guarantees, might be tempted some day to go nuclear.

In addition, the Bush administration abruptly changed the nuclear doctrine of the United States, and therefore of NATO, by declaring nuclear arms to be "weapons of last resort." That was Mr. Blackwill's wording, formally put forward by his higher-ranking friend, Mr. Zoellick, and kept secret ahead of a NATO summit meeting in June to avoid allied objections.

The phrase was ambiguous enough to preserve the deterrent threat of "using nuclear weapons first." The shift was endorsed by Western leaders, although Mrs. Thatcher objected that it was too big a concession. "I never had much use for diplomacy anyway," she acknowledged, "and I've got on very well without it."

It was the last concessions. Mr. Baker made it plain that, if Moscow stonewalled, the United States was ready to abandon its rights in Germany — any initiative that Britain and France would join, leaving Russia isolated. On July 13, Mr. Gorbachev, talking with an aide before a state visit by Mr. Kohl, said that "the train has left."

The next day, when Mr. Kohl asked whether a reunited Germany "would be fully sovereign," Mr. Gorbachev said matter-of-factly: "This is obvious."

International Herald Tribune

King assails opponents of peace

(Continued from page 1)

defend the nation.

"We have paid a high price that no one can deny," the King added.

The Palestinians, he said, have moved ahead of Jordan and now shoulder their responsibilities to regain their rights.

"We will continue to support them with all our might to help them regain those rights," said the King, adding that Jordan had no ambitions in that except to help them to regain their lands.

He said that the Palestinians should have their own freedom in the future to decide the nature of relations which they would have with Jordan.

Egypt, he said, had led the Arab Nation in wars and later chose the path of peace.

The Madrid conference

brought together all the parties involved in the conflict and Jordan joined in after taking into consideration all aspects of this endeavour, the King said.

"We provided an umbrella to the Palestinians, allowing them to speak for themselves and later they moved ahead and chose their path," he said.

"With the Jordan-Israel peace treaty we have regained our lands and water and we regained an internationally recognised borders," he added.

The peace treaty, he said, created an atmosphere for the Kingdom and its people to pursue the path of development and progress, and "we moved at the right moment to ensure that this will take place."

The King said Jordan was trying to make up for the lost

years and the sufferings of the people and will continue to lay foundations for peace.

"We are in a race against time in order to enable the people what others have achieved so that the people will have the opportunities like others and to prepare the nation to face the future challenges," the King said.

He said Jordan was striving to become a model for the other countries in the region in terms of democracy, political pluralism and respect of human rights.

Referring to the Oct. 29-31, Middle East and North Africa economic conference to be held in Amman, the King said Jordan was preparing for a "major event towards opening to the world and to benefit from the experiences of others and to build foundations for prosperity."

Kabarti addresses U.N. assembly

(Continued from page 1)

support for the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in providing the basic services to the refugees until they could be repatriated.

The foreign minister voiced Jordan's support for the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the recent agreements signed in Washington on expanding the Palestinian self-rule.

Self-rule deal under way

(Continued from page 1)

illegal entry were among those handed over to the Palestinians.

Up to 1,200 Palestinians were to have gone free "on the signing" of the West Bank deal. A further phase of releases is to take place before self-rule elections.

The releases were marred by delays, confusion and PLO accusations over Israel's refusal to pardon four Palestinian women prisoners despite a clause in the accord that says all female detainees are to be freed.

A senior Palestinian official had said earlier in the day that none of the 500 security prisoners eligible for release Tuesday would leave jail, in protest over the continued detention of the women.

But 200 of the prisoners who walked out of prisons had been held for security

offences.

"We are starting a new stage. Our war with the Jews has ended," said Mohammad Jerar, who was just a few days short of completing a seven-year sentence for stabbing a suspected Palestinian informer.

Sami Zahran, who served three years of a seven-year term for weapons possession, said he would not honour the non-violence pledge he signed.

"The occupation is still here and we have to continue resistance until the establishment of a Palestinian state," Mr. Zahran said.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi, meanwhile, asked Israel's supreme court to order Israel's government to free the four Palestinian women, saying their continued detention violated the autonomy accord.

Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

to stop (Hamas) attacks against the Zionist occupation."

"We want to open a real and global dialogue, with an open agenda and no preconditions, with the Palestinian Authority," the statement said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, however, has pledged to fight attacks against Israel as part of the peace process and the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

On Friday, Israeli state radio said that, at the request of Mr. Arafat, the Jewish state allowed members of Hamas to leave the Gaza Strip to meet with leaders of the group in exile in Sudan.

A prominent member of Hamas said meanwhile the group was considering turning itself into a political party ahead of planned Palestinian elections.

Mahmoud Zahar, freed two days ago after more than three months in Palestinian jail, told the Associated Press the group was debating the idea. "We still haven't decided whether to transform Hamas into a political party or to form a political wing within the group," he said.

Tabloids impair the ability of the judiciary to dispense justice, says Henry Porter

ONE ASPECT of last week's coverage of the decision to abandon the trial of Geoff Knights because of wide-ranging press breaches of the contempt law stood out: the rank arrogance of the responses by newspaper editors. When you read Richard Stott, editor of Today, saying that Judge Roger Sanders' remarks were "hysterical," you know that the tabloid press has quite simply lost its ability to function within the law and that the moment for action has arrived.

"If he is saying," blustered Mr. Stott, "that nobody can report a crime in case somebody is later charged with it, it is nonsense."

Of course Judge Sanders was not saying that. What he did say was that the coverage after Mr. Knights had been charged was so damaging to the defendant that it would be impossible for him to receive a fair trial.

Perhaps Mr. Stott does not understand the law of contempt, but this seems unlikely. There is very little room for ambivalence in the law: once somebody is charged, a newspaper may not publish anything which is likely to affect the course of the trial, and that includes interviews with witnesses and remarks about defendants — or, for that matter, the judge. The point that Mr. Stott disingenuously ignores is that the preponderance of prejudicial coverage came after Knights was charged.

Just a few weeks before the committal proceedings Lynda Lee Potter, the Daily Mail's star columnist, published an interview with Mr. Knights' girlfriend Gillian Taylor, who was to be one of the main prosecution witnesses.

Other newspapers were just as careless of the law: the Sun, the Daily Express and the Daily Mirror were singled out for referring to allegations against Knights when they knew that a trial date had been set.

In total eight national newspapers were said to have openly flouted the law, which does not suggest a misunderstanding in the newspaper world so much as a tacit conspiracy to erode one of the most important principles in British justice.

This issue is not about the freedom to report. It is about the freedom of the judicial system to operate justly and of defendants to be tried in as neutral a climate as possible. There is no public interest principle at stake here — other than the protection of the legal system — and no argument about freedom of speech; just plain and simple law-breaking.

Newspapers are on the whole rather more mindful of the safety of their positions than this behaviour seems to indicate, certainly newspaper lawyers are, and it seems unlikely that these papers would have broken the contempt law if their inhouse lawyers had advised that they risked proceedings in doing so. But the lawyers have been reading the signals given out by the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, who has shown a distinct reluctance to persecute the tabloids for contempt.

The lawyers must have advised that the risks were slight, and, given the intense competition between tabloids over stories concerning soap stars, the newspapers published, probably drawing a certain comfort from the idea that no Conservative Attorney General would dare to bring proceedings against so many national titles.

It is the scale of the defiance that prompts action against the newspapers now, but it is astonishing that the situation was allowed to get so out of control, for no law officer could possibly fail to see the value of the principle of contempt.

And yet there were these encouraging signals. In 1993 a case against three police officers

accused of perjury in the trial of the Birmingham Six collapsed because of press coverage, but no action against the newspapers followed. In July Michelle and Lisa Taylor attempted to bring contempt proceedings against the Sun, Daily Mirror, Daily Mail and Daily Express for the prejudicial and sensational reporting of their murder trial three years ago.

Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal and they decided to pursue the newspapers responsible for the coverage, but were prevented from doing so by the Solicitor General, who in operating on behalf of Sir Nicholas Lyell's office said that contempt proceedings were "not appropriate."

When the sisters challenged this decision in the High Court the judges backed the law officers, although one did concede that the behaviour of the newspapers had "crossed acceptable limits."

It now appears, however, that the judiciary has become frustrated by the Attorney General's lack of enthusiasm in this area. Anthony Scrivener QC, former chairman of the Bar, said that judges thought the Attorney General had not been doing enough and that his laxity was directly responsible for falling newspaper standards.

Clearly Sir Nicholas Lyell could not ignore Judge Sanders' remarks about the press last week and ordered the Solicitor General, Sir Derek Spencer, to launch an inquiry. If proceedings follow — and we must hope that they do — then the Government must take its share of the blame for the ambiguity of Sir Nicholas's stance. There has been very little in the way of clear guidance in the past three years.

There is one other thing in all of this that should not be forgotten, and that is the increasing

recklessness of the tabloid press. This case is not just about the contempt of court; it is about the general contempt for all institutions that exists among the popular newspapers.

The success of the newspapers in exposing so many members of the political and judicial establishment these past years has meant that an understandable reluctance to offend the press has grown up within the establishment.

One must not accuse Sir Nicholas of bringing the next election into his considerations, but there are people in government who allow it to enter their calculations, and this is quite simply wrong.

There can be no doubt, when you hear editors like Mr. Stott speaking, that newspapers today have a much greater sense of their own power than they did five years ago: they have taken on the highest in the land — royalty, judges, cabinet ministers, air vice marshals — and they have usually won. And during this time there has, it seems, been very little to restrain them or to cause them to reconsider their behaviour.

This is an extremely unhealthy situation, and if you want to see where it leads, you have only to look to the United States, where television has acquired very much the same sort of preeminence as the tabloids have in Britain.

American television made the trial of OJ Simpson a farce, which is exactly what the tabloids did to the case of Geoff Knights. It is a development that should not go unchecked.

Troubleshooter steps in as Saudi finance minister

DUBAI (R) — A veteran Saudi troubleshooter who is a confidant of King Fahd has been appointed acting finance minister after the minister resigned on health grounds.

Diplomats in Saudi Arabia Tuesday said the switch was unlikely to result in any immediate changes in the economic policies of the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

"I can't see any immediate policy implications in the appointment. It can be seen just as a personnel change," a diplomat in the kingdom said.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Monday that King Fahd had accepted the resignation of finance and national economy minister Suleiman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Suleim for health reasons after less than three months in the post.

The acting minister, Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Al Khawter, is an adept technocrat who has won a name as the kingdom's troubleshooter, the diplomats said.

The 69-year-old Khawter's career includes spells as

acting minister of health, agriculture and information. He has also acted as a special envoy of King Fahd to Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen and Syria.

Seen by diplomats as a man for difficult jobs, Sheikh Khawter has been in charge of talks with Yemen aimed at solving a 60-year border dispute between the two states.

Diplomats said that Sheikh Khawter would aim to carry through the policies set in the country's sixth economic plan approved in July for the year 1995 to 2000.

"The plan aims to reduce dependence on oil and nurture a greater role for the private sector in the economy."

"He will continue the policy of keeping tight control on public spending time and encouraging the policy of the shift to the private sector," a Western diplomat said.

"The policy has been etched in stone in the plan. Khawter will follow the plan," another diplomat said.

Under the plan the private sector is promised a larger role in the economy to get projects started without

adding to the burdens of the state budget.

The introduction of rules for a long-awaited privatisation programme is also expected next year.

Saudi Arabia's budget for 1995 forecasts a deficit of \$4 billion despite revenues of \$36 billion and economists expect further cost-cutting policies next year to keep state spending in check and the budget close to balance.

As Finance Minister, Sheikh Khawter is expected to sit on the country's supreme petroleum council with Oil Minister Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Nuaimi, who has day-to-day responsibility for the kingdom's oil output of eight million barrels per day (b/d).

"Finance and oil ministers have similar goals — to maximise revenues from oil sales and to ensure in the long run that the oil price is not so high that it will encourage the development of other resources," an economist in Bahrain said.

Some three-quarters of government income derives from Saudi Arabia's crude oil and petroleum product exports, the diplomats said.

U.S. economist Lucas wins Nobel prize for inflation-unemployment link

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — U.S. Professor Robert Lucas won the 1995 Nobel prize for economics Tuesday for showing that attempts to boost employment with inflationary policies are bound to fail. By showing how people's expectations adapt to, and preempt, policy, Dr. Lucas has led many countries to strive for "a low and stable inflation rate," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said in announcing the award.

Dr. Lucas had done more than any other economist to influence macroeconomic research since 1970, it said.

The jury awarded the prize to Dr. Lucas, a 58-year-old professor at the University of Chicago, "for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations."

His work had "transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy."

Born in 1937 in Yakima, Washington, Dr. Lucas is also second vice-president of the Econometric Society, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

He received his PhD in economics from the University of Chicago in 1964. He

began his career as assistant professor of economics in 1963 at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he became associate professor in 1967 and professor of economics in 1970.

The academy, giving its reasons for the award, concentrated on how Dr. Lucas had thrown light on one of the great policy dilemmas facing governments in a climate of rising inflation and deepening cycle of unemployment since the 1960s and which today dominates economic management in industrialised nations.

It took as a key example the original understanding of the so-called Phillips curve named after the economist who first established a relationship between inflation and employment in the form of an ever-steepening graph.

A top economist here, commenting on the award, said that Dr. Lucas had turned interpretation of the Phillips curve upside down, showing a link between inflation and unemployment.

The academy said that 20 years ago the curve was interpreted on the basis that ordinary people set their targets for such things as wages with guesswork about future trends or even solely in

the light of wages and prices in the past.

Therefore the curve was interpreted "as an option for government authorities to increase employment by pursuing an expansionary policy which raises inflation," the academy said.

Economists Milton Friedman and Edmund Phelps challenged this view, arguing that people would adjust to the increase in inflation and that the way they reacted, for example by demanding wage increases, would "preclude a lasting increase in employment."

But their arguments were not entirely convincing because they assumed that people would adapt as events unfolded or after the event.

Dr. Lucas invented and demonstrated his theory that people used forward-thinking or so-called rational expectations.

His model demonstrated that "any endeavour... to exploit the Phillips curve and permanently increase employment would be futile and only give rise to higher inflation."

"This is because agents (people) in the model adjust their expectations and hence price and wage formation to the new, expected policy."

The academy noted that experience in the 1970s and

1980s had shown that an increase in inflation did not increase employment permanently.

The work by Dr. Lucas "is now the foundation for monetary policy in a number of countries in their efforts to achieve and maintain a low and stable inflation rate."

His work in challenging straightforward assumptions behind many types of economic model had far-reaching implications and could be applied in many fields. It had a "profound influence" on the setting of economic policies which "often produce a completely different outcome if the agents adapt their expectations to the new policy stance."

Governments now considered as standard practice how people would adapt to expected changes in interest rates, taxes or unemployment benefit.

Dr. Lucas had moved on to the so-called equilibrium theory of business cycles and had created a new field of econometrics known as rational expectations econometrics.

He had also made "outstanding" contributions to investment and monetary theory, international finance and the theory of economic growth, the academy said.

World Bank says donors may cut benefits to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuts in U.S. support for loans to the world's poorest countries could lead other donors to limit the number of World Bank contracts going to Americans, bank president James Wolfensohn said Tuesday.

Mr. Wolfensohn said if the United States sharply reduces funds committed for bank lending, as proposed in Congress, other countries would not likely make up the shortfall. If they did, he said, there could be conditions.

"I'm not at all sure they'd put in the money, first of all," he said, adding, "if they did, it would not surprise me if there was some parallel set up... which would be to seek to exclude the United States from the benefits of those funds."

The World Bank says the United States gets back seven per cent more than it contributes to the bank, with added business and jobs.

Mr. Wolfensohn said an arrangement that puts limits on such benefits would appear to be equitable if contribution are cut.

The Clinton administration

has asked for \$1.4 billion to fulfill current U.S. commitments to the bank's International Development Association (IDA) fund, which lends to the world's poorest countries. The House has proposed to cut that to \$755 billion, and the Senate would make it \$775 billion.

A decade ago, when the United States contributed less than it pledged, governments that helped make up the shortfall imposed a condition that U.S. companies could not bid on contracts for any projects arising from that contribution.

The joint Development Committee of the bank and the International Monetary Fund said Monday that the fight against poverty is seriously threatened by possible reductions in contributions from the United States.

Such loans go largely to countries where the average citizen earns \$600 a year or less.

"Budget cutting by the U.S. Congress has led to delays and likely large reductions in the size of the contribution by IDA's leading donor," World Bank President

James Wolfensohn told the joint Development Committee of the bank and its sister body, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The World Bank lends the money on easy terms through IDA. The Development Committee includes finance ministers from the 179 member countries of the two organisations.

Mr. Wolfensohn said at a news conference Monday that he had no assurances from the 33 other donors that they would not follow the United States in reducing their contributions to the \$18 billion pot.

"The committee recognised that funding reductions facing IDA present a very serious risk to poverty reduction and economic growth in the world's poorest countries," members said in a joint statement.

They said the bank and fund should speed up their social spending and poverty reduction programmes. They argued that increasing access by the poor to land, credit and basic services would promote broad growth with many new jobs.

Sudan raises prices of fuel, newspapers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudan increased the price of fuel Tuesday after the value of the pound dropped by up to 50 per cent.

Announcements carried by local media said fuel would cost between 15.4 per cent and 25 per cent more in a move that will further worsen the plight of millions of Sudanese already struggling with high unemployment and inflation.

Gasoline was hiked from 1300 Sudanese pounds to 1500 pounds (\$1.73 to \$2) a gallon. Diesel prices were raised from 600 to 750 pounds a gallon (80 cents to \$1).

A cylinder of cooking gas — used by most Sudanese households — went from 4000 to 4500 pounds (\$5.3 to \$6).

After the government allowed private exchange offices to open last month, the Sudanese pound took a dive as people flocked to change their hard currency at better rates.

The bank rate fell from 500 pounds to 750 pounds to the dollar, a 50 per cent devaluation. The black market rate went from 600 to 800 pounds to the dollar, a 33 per cent

devaluation.

On Thursday, the government will increase the price of two newspapers from 150 pounds to 200 pounds (20 cents to 26 cents).

Sudanese unions have demanded the government close the exchange offices, saying they feared the devalued pound would cause price increases and further erode workers' fixed salaries.

An average worker in Sudan makes between 5,000 and 10,000 Sudanese pounds a month (\$6.6 to \$13.3). Sporadic salary hikes have not kept up with inflation at more than 50 per cent.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

GIASBERGEN



"There goes my beeper! That means my cat wants something!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YAMEL

LODEY

LAHNE

BALLOG

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE CLOAK HERMIT CHISEL
Answer: Salt lovers find it difficult to do this — SHAKE THE HABIT.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

- Die out
- Arctic sea
- Did in
- Author Turgenev
- Coll. in New Eng.
- Head of France
- Candid
- Way off
- Makes a request
- Unnerve
- Sidick
- Speaker before
- Gingrich
- Play plan
- Fake illness
- Trouble
- Safe
- Grande
- Units of work
- Gave and
- Bustle
- Utmost
- Gem surface
- Affluent folk
- Takes away from
- Abandon
- Asian rulers
- Whippersnapper
- Green film
- Justice Thomas
- Make — for it (lie)
- Flicker flick
- Data
- Copy Corot
- Squadron
- Rule enforcers
- Dehiscent seed
- vessels
- Solitary

DOWN

- Wind
- English river
- Rapid, sudden movement
- Goes abroad
- Newsman
- Charles
- Friendship
- Torn attire
- Hardwood tree
- New York island
- Cooperstown hurler
- List extender
- "The Way We"
- Takes a leisurely walk
- Gives a leg up
- Touched ground
- Weakness
- Squander
- du jour
- Space film (with "The")
- Some people
- Diving duck
- Rule the — (dominate)
- Amount of current
- Artist Marcel
- Far from tacky
- James of "The Godfather"
- Courage
- Large beasts, for short
- Makes blueprints
- Fit in
- Duo
- Composer Thomas
- Ad award
- Forbidden act
- Slot insert
- Novel
- ending
- Mouth

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

BABY LASER GRAB
LURE OMANT ROSE
IRAS GOLDPLATED
PASSPORT EDITS
SITS BEAU
ANTRA OPAL ACAD
TEA STRAND TODD
RICK HASTE EPOS
ELKE OTTERS PRE
ELSE SOAR TAEED
NEER BOER
ASONE DIALECTS
STEELWORKS VEAL
SONS ORNOT ENTO
TWOIS KRONE STAG


Peanuts



HOW COME WE NEVER WIN? DO YOU THINK HE HAS CARDS UP HIS SLEEVE?

I DON'T THINK HE NEEDS A SLEEVE..

Andy Cap



SHOULD I TRY MY LUCK WITH THE LITTLE DARTING JACK?

UP TO YOU, ANDY, YOU'RE THE LUCKY.

LIVE DANGEROUSLY, EH?

EXACTLY.

WITH HIS JUDGMENT, HE TAKES A CHANCE EVERY TIME HE USES IT.

Mutt'n'Jeff



YOU THINK SO MUCH OF YOUR OLD GOLF YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE MARRIED!

OF COURSE I DO, M'LOVE!

IT WAS THE DAY I SANK THAT THIRTY FOOT PUT!

MUTT, IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP GOLF, I'LL LEAVE YOU FLAT!

GOSH, M'LOVE, NO! I'LL NO!

YOU'LL WHAT?

I'LL MISS YOU!

Public sector strike brings France close to a halt

PARIS (R) — A one-day strike by five million public sector workers in France brought railways, buses, underground trains, schools, post offices and a host of other services and state-owned firms to a near-standstill Tuesday.

Unions called the stoppage, the biggest in almost a decade, in protest against the conservative government's refusal to raise civil service pay next year beyond its contractual commitments.

In Paris, millions of commuters were forced to walk or cycle to work, or spend hours in traffic jams, as public transport slowed to a skeleton service. Swarms of young Parisians took to their roller-skates.

Transport officials said at least four of 15 lines in the capital's metro underground railway system were closed. On others, the service was cut to just 10 per cent.

Traffic jams plagued the morning rush-hour, with motorways into the city clogged by queues of up to 15 kilometres. Rubbish piled up on pavements as dustmen joined the strike.

The stoppage, dubbed "black Tuesday," tested the austerity policies of Prime Minister Alain Juppe, buffeted in the past month by a falling franc, plummeting popularity and a housing scandal.

Across France, an average of 70 per cent of teachers stayed away from schools.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Civic and practical affairs should be handled wisely at this time, and you can make great progress. Contact a powerful person who can be of assistance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look to new friends for those novel ideas which appeal to you, and then make good use of them towards you being successful. Dress in style and be the envy of all.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have fine ideas and cap put them in operating quickly and gain the progress you desire in your chosen field of endeavour. Make new contacts who have information.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A clever person in business can give good pointers so that you can become more successful, so listen carefully to what is presented and gain knowledge.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your judgement is good to-day and you have clever ideas so think constructively and put them in operation quickly so you will be noticed one in authority.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have good ideas just how to profit from your talents at this time and can make a big name for yourself in the eyes of bigwigs.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get in touch with good friends and plan recreations which are mutually liked. You can come to a real understanding with the one you love.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more cognizant of what kinds' needs are and try to help them today. The evening is fine for inviting friends and close associates into your home.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more friendly with contacts in the outside world and you get better results. This is a good day for handling important communications.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use a more modern system in handling property affairs and get better results in your career activities. Consult with experts for ideas.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have good ideas today just how to gain your personal aims and find that a conservative friend can also be of help to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may have rather strange ideas on how to make your existence better, so weed out the bad and concentrate on the good for best results.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Public sector
strike brings
France close
to a halt

ARIN (R) — A week-
long strike by five million pub-
lic sector workers in France
brought the country close to a
halt. The strike, which began
on Monday, affected all public
services, including the postal
service, the railways, and the
airline industry.

Unions called the strike the
biggest in the history of the
country. The government, which
is in a coalition with the right-
wing, is expected to call for
early elections.

In Paris, millions of stu-
dents were told to return to
their homes. The strike also
affected the country's economy,
with many businesses closing
their doors.

Traffic jams were reported
on the highways. The strike
also affected the country's
tourism industry, with many
hotels and restaurants closing
their doors.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

The strike is expected to
last for several more days.
The government is expected to
call for early elections.

business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

About 1.2m persons lose benefits of subsidies

★ ABOUT 200,000 fam-
ilies out of a total of 750,000
were excluded from the 1996
list of beneficiaries of state
subsidies for rice, sugar and
milk. The reduction in the
number of beneficiaries, affect-
ing approximately 1.2 million
people, aims at cutting the
cost of subsidies which amount
to JD 113 million in the next
year compared to JD 81.6 mil-
lion in 1995. Those excluded
from receiving subsidies in 1996
were 15 per cent more than the
number of families which were
dropped from the list of bene-
ficiaries in 1995. The Ministry
of Supply has been conducting
a campaign in the past few
months to check on all those
who earn a monthly income
more than JD 500. The cam-
paign involved reviewing salary
registers of civil servants as well
as other private and public com-
panies in cooperation with the
Ministry of Finance, the In-
come Tax Department and the
Social Security Corporation. As
such, the Ministry of Supply
requests all those earning more
than JD 500 per month not to
seek subsidy coupons which will
be distributed by some 300 em-
ployees, through 125 centres
across the Kingdom, starting
next week until the end of
November 1995. The amounts
of subsidised food remain un-
changed at 18 kilograms for each
of the rice and sugar and three
kilograms of powder milk, per
person per year (Al Ra'i).

★ AN AGREEMENT for a
JD 30 million syndicated loan
from four banks in addition
to the Social Security Cor-
poration was signed Monday
between the lenders and the
Jordan Investment Tourism and
Transport Company (Alpha). The
syndicated loan, which is man-
aged by the Arab Banking Cor-
poration (Jordan), also involv-
es the Business Bank, the Jordan
Kuwait Bank and the Housing
Bank.

The credit, to be repaid
over a period of four years
after a nine-month grace period,
will be used to purchase
new tourist buses. The com-
pany's deputy board chairman,
Michel Nazzari, expects 20 new
buses to be put into service dur-
ing the coming two weeks to
join the fleet of 40 buses that
are operating now. He indicated
that another 40 new buses will
be imported before the end of
the year. Mr. Nazzari said the
buses, which will have 50-seat
capacity and will be comfort-
able, will cost JD 175,000 (\$250,000)
each. The company is limited to
charge \$300 a day for a bus
but Mr. Nazzari hopes that the
government will free the charges,
especially in light of competi-
tion and the long distances that
buses cover daily. At present
there are four tourism transport
companies, three of them were
newly established with a JD 10
million capital each. The fourth
company, JETT, has been the
only tourism transport company
for a long time but its conces-
sion had recently ended (Al Ra'i).

★ BY THE end of June
1995, there was a total of
324,406 telephone lines in the
Kingdom. The number in Am-
man alone was 202,416 and in
the various governorates was
108,385. Semi-automatic tele-
phone lines numbered 14,605. The
Telecommunications Corporation
saw there were 24 main tele-
phone exchanges in the King-
dom with 60 electronic auxil-
iaries having an overall capacity
of 338,890 telephone lines. The
TCC noted that during the first
six months of this year, 11,786
new telephones were provided,
8,102 of which were in Amman.
Additional statistics show a total
of 57 million minutes in out-
ward international calls, 320 mil-
lion minutes in national calls and
1,058 million minutes in local
calls. Activity in telephony re-
corded 1.4 million minutes in
outward international messages
last year (Al Ra'i).

★ CAPRICORN: (December
22 to January 20) You are a
modern system in handling
property affairs and get the
best results in your career
and life. Consult with experts
for ideas.

★ AQUARIUS: (January 21 to
February 19) You have great
ideas today just how to use
your personal aims and in-
crease your income. You are
also a help to your friends.
★ PISCES: (February 20 to
March 20) You may be a
rather strange idea in your
life, but you will find the best
results.

★ BIRTHDAY OF OCTOBER (the
Toumna)

Egyptian delegation to MENA conference to be second largest

CAIRO (Petra) — Egypt is
sending the second largest
delegation to the Middle East
and North Africa (MENA)
conference which is due to
open in Amman on Oct. 29.

The Egyptian delegation,
which will be led by Foreign
Minister Amr Musa, will in-
clude the ministers of econ-
omy, industry, administra-
tive development, tourism
and international cooperation
in addition to other officials
and at least 100 journal-
ists.

Dr. Hisham Sharif, head of
Egypt's information centre,
told the Jordan News Agen-
cy, Petra, that the Amman
conference represents a
genuine and ambitious move
leading towards integration
among and development for
the countries of the region.

Pointing out the need for
human resources develop-
ment to carry out these pro-
jects, Mr. Sharif said Egypt
has a great wealth of human
resources that can cater to
the labour market needs of
the region.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/10/95	Singapore Close 10/10/95
Sterling Pound	1.5830	1.5815**
Deutsche Mark	1.4218	1.4170
Swiss Franc	1.1450	1.1505**
French Franc	4.9955	4.9748**
Japanese Yen	100.55	100.48
European Currency Unit	1.2890	1.2936**

★ USD Per JTD
★ European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.68	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.56	6.56	6.62
Deutsche Mark	3.61	3.61	3.61	3.61
Swiss Franc	1.00	1.06	1.06	1.06
French Franc	3.68	3.68	3.62	3.62
Japanese Yen	0.45	0.25	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75

★ Interbank bid rates for overnight lending U.S. Dollars (LIBOR) are equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7110	0.7130
Sterling Pound	1.1252	1.1308
Deutsche Mark	0.5014	0.5039
Swiss Franc	0.6198	0.6223
French Franc	0.1430	0.1437
Japanese Yen	0.7071	0.7106
Dutch Guilder	0.4477	0.4499
Swedish Krona	0.0442	0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	0.0442	0.0444

★ For JTD

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6710	1.6840
Lebanese Lira	0.043325	0.044550
Saudi Riyal	0.1893	0.1907
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3630
Qatari Riyal	0.1942	0.1954
Egyptian Pound	0.2080	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8410	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1930	0.1941
Greek Drachma	0.2875	0.3180
Cypriot Pound	1.5285	1.5280

★ For JTD

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling
rates for leading world currencies and gold against the
dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and
bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3360/70	Canadian dollar	1.4192/02
	1.5896/06	Deutschmarks	1.5896/06
	1.1496/06	Dutch guilders	29.20/24
	4.9733/83	Swiss francs	1607.08/5
	100.94/04	Belgian francs	7.9610/10
	6.2660/10	French francs	6.2660/10
	5.5148/48	Italian lire	5.5148/48
	1.4280/90	Japanese yen	1.4280/90
	0.7579/84	Swedish crowns	0.7579/84
	7.7305/15	Danish crowns	7.7305/15
		Singapore dollars	
		Australian dollars	
		Hong Kong dollars	

One sterling \$1.5824/34
One ounce of gold \$384.75/\$385.05

Bahrain to set up regional bond market

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Bahrain is planning to set up a bond market to serve Arab Gulf oil producers in plans to expand its stock exchange and keep up its position as a key financial centre in the oil-rich region, a Bahraini financial official said Monday.

Fawzi Bahzad, director of the Bahrain Stock Exchange (BSE), said the bond market would mainly serve the industrial sector in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states as they pursue reforms to offset weak oil prices.

"We are planning to develop a bond market in Bahrain to serve the region and to provide sufficient finance for long-term projects, especially in the industrial sector," Mr. Bahzad told an investment seminar in Abu Dhabi.

It would be the first market of its kind in the region, where only bonds issued by governments to shore up budget deficits are traded. Such bonds are sold at stock markets in Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait while they are traded through banks in Saudi Arabia which does not have an official floor.

Experts said such a market was needed to secure finance for the expanding non-oil industries given the growing role of the private sector in the GCC, which also comprises Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Most GCC states have launched or are planning to carry out major reforms to repair economic damage caused by a decline in oil prices.

The focus is on privatisation, to enable the private sector to spearhead development plans after decades of government domination. Reforms over the past few years have boosted the private sector's share of the gross domestic product (GDP) in around 40 per cent from 35 per cent.

Economists said such a share was expected to exceed 50 per cent by 2000 as Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, is set to privatise water, electricity, aviation and other key facilities.

Tourism revives in Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Tourism is booming in Egypt again — with more than three million visitors expected this year — following a drought caused by unrest and war, an official said Monday. Money earned from tourists is one of Egypt's biggest sources of revenue, providing billions of dollars in hard currency. A slump caused by the 1991 Gulf war and attacks by Muslim militants in southern Egypt sent the economy into a tailspin. But tourism minister Mamdouh El Beltagy said Monday the government noticed a revival last summer and a full recovery this year. More than three million tourists are expected to visit in 1995, he said, surpassing the record of three million set in 1990.

Investors buy Lebanese T-bills 'like bread'

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's weekly treasury (T) bill issue shot up Monday to 622.7 billion Lebanese lira (\$387 million) and bankers said people were queuing up to buy the bills "like bread."

The sale was the biggest for at least two years and yields remained close to six-year highs they have reached in recent weeks.

The past two weeks have seen a dramatic comeback by Lebanese T-bills which were popular with local and overseas investors in 1993 and 1994 but slumped this year after interest rates fell and the market was hit by political and financial uncertainties.

Rates have since climbed again to their highest level since before 1990, according to Bank of Lebanon records, and the uncertainties on the political and economic fronts appear to have dissipated since August.

This week's sale was 55 per cent higher than the previous week's 401.8 billion lira, which was already far the highest for 1995.

Most popular buy were 12-month bills. They carried 37.57 per cent annual interest — 10 per cent or more above the three-month, six-month and two-year bills — and accounted for 543 billion lira of the total.

The sale posted a huge nominal surplus of subscription against maturity of 342 billion lira.

One banker said the popularity of the T-bills confirmed that political and financial uncertainties which caused a flight from the Lebanese lira earlier this year had been overcome. But he was puzzled that the authorities did not seize the chance to lower the T-bill rates substantially.

He asked why the government should borrow \$387 million locally at 37 per cent when it could get the same amount on the Eurobond market for nine per cent.

"The positiveness in the market would have been better translated into lower rates, not higher sales," the banker said.

Another banker said authorities appeared to be trying to stabilise the market

and reduce the danger of further flights from the Lebanese lira to the dollar — the traditional safe haven for Lebanese investors in times of uncertainty — by sucking in liquidity.

"The government wants to suck all the liquidity out of the system so that people won't be able to buy dollars in future," he said.

The Bank of Lebanon's interventions on the currency market to defend the pound in several runs on the currency this year have cost it more than \$1 billion and have sharply reduced its foreign exchange reserves.

Bankers say that some 80-85 per cent of Lebanese deposits are for only one-to-three months and are easily retrieved and available for conversion into dollars when needed.

"The authorities are now trying to get people to invest long-term to keep them out of the banking system so their money is not available for conversion to dollars," the banker said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHORTLIST			
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607119			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 10/10/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI	400	96130	240.000 241.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3280	14118	4.340 4.350
BANK OF JORDAN	6000	22200	3.730 3.700
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	787	1863	2.370 2.370
JORDAN KIBLA BANK	1600	1606	2.800 2.770
JORDAN GULF BANK	68594	70956	1.160 1.170
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3640	13386	3.680 3.680
JORDAN INVESTMENT FINANCE BANK	254	1030	3.710 3.710
REIT ELKAL SAUVEINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3352	11358	3.400 3.400
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT	23400	21474	.920 .920
WESTLANDER INVESTMENT BANK	3666	5665	1.540 1.540
BANKS SECTOR	114063	289069	INDEX NUMBER: 192.15 CHANGE: +0.294
INSURANCE SECTOR	250	805	INDEX NUMBER: 331.48 CHANGE: +0.177
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	13467	21980	1.630 1.630
NATIONAL POWER INDUSTRIES	1300	3746	2.900 2.900
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	890	901	1.050 1.060
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	3000	2040	.680 .680
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3650	12418	3.210 3.220
ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY	2000	2620	1.310 1.310
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	8300	9385	1.140 1.120
SERVICES SECTOR	33267	53058	INDEX NUMBER: 127.68 CHANGE: -0.014
ATKINSON CORP. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1200	1200	1.30 1.300
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4024	14269	3.550 3.550
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	400	1200	3.000 3.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3049	28885	9.450 9.470
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	430	1418	3.280 3.280
ABU DHABI PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	266	1282	4.770 4.720
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	1350	3330	2.480 2.470
THE PUBLIC KIBLA	492	1411	3.000 3.000
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	300	2172	7.250 7.240
ABU DHABI ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	600	3109	5.200 5.170
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	80100	58897	.698 .670
GENERAL INVESTMENT	100	280	2.800 2.800
ABU DHABI PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	32100	46061	1.410 1.420
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	2600	2783	1.080 1.070
THE JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	900	1558	1.730 1.730
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	250	335	1.360 1.340
ABU DHABI PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1050	2205	2.100 2.100
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	8300	9385	1.140 1.120
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	3600	7023	1.960 1.950
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	4567	7138	1.560 1.570
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	4850	6340	1.400 1.390
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	50000	104500	1.990 2.090
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	200761	298671	INDEX NUMBER: 123.14 CHANGE: +0.135
GRAND TOTAL	340341	621303	INDEX NUMBER: 158.16 CHANGE: +0.134

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone. Other apartments and villas.
Furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810609, 810520

A SECURE Hotel Sweiffyeh
Turino
Flat O.TEL
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel
FLAT O.TEL
الاجل القليل المكيه
المطبخ بمسكن عالمي
863944 - 816890

Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers & Pizzas
ELITE CAFE
Sweiffyeh
816690
At Turino

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank, Phone: 60402 Swedish tel: 823891

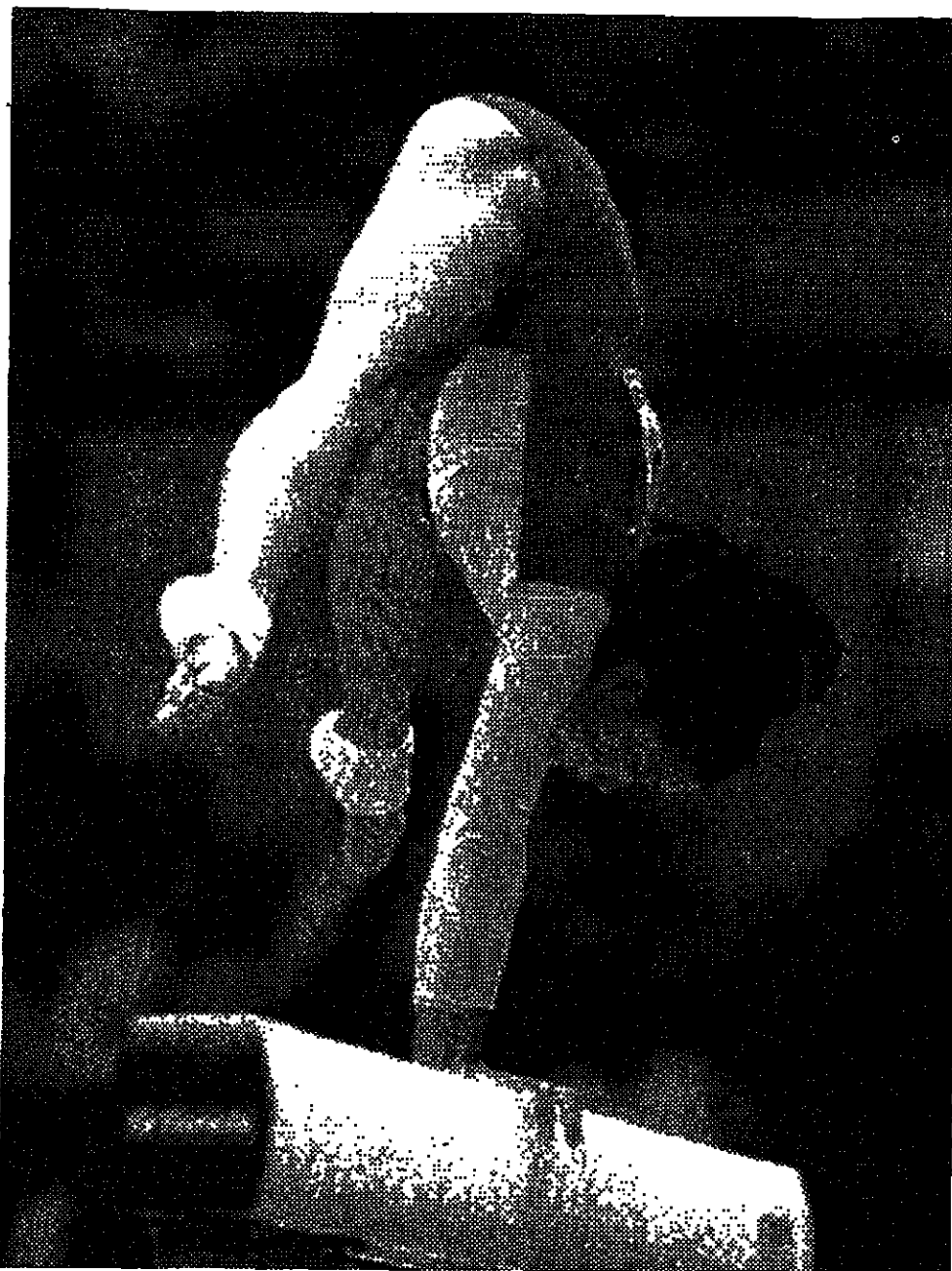
SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman
for further details please call
Tel. 864230 Fax. 864231

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

La Coquette RESTAURANT
Cuisine Française
SPECIAL OFFER BUSINESS LUNCH DAILY
CANDLE DINNER, LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY
Shmeisani - Near Babicha
Tel. 680093

CROWN HOTEL
INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL
SAUNA & JACUZZI
FITNESS ROOM
SQUASH COURT
TEL 758180
SALES OFFICE 605843 - 606157
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

SHENWAN GARDENS CHINESE REST



Mo Huilan of China performs to win the balance beam in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championship (Reuters photo)

China's Mo wins on beam; Scherbo adds another gold

SABAE, Japan (R) — Vitaly Scherbo reminded the world he will be a force to be reckoned with at next year's Atlanta Olympics when he won his second gold on the ninth and final day of the World Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday.

Tiny Mo Huilan claimed China's third title with a high score of 9.9 points on the beam, while Gina Gogean also raised Romania's golden tally to three with a near-flawless performance in the floor exercise.

Belarusian Scherbo, who won six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, grabbed the parallel bars crown from defending champion Huang Liping of China after retaining his floor exercise title on Monday. He was also silver medalist in the all-round competition.

Scherbo, who in the post-competition press conference played court jester and interpreter as well as gold medalist, received 9.812 points for a flowing sequence on the parallel bars which finished with a tucked backward double salto. Huang scored 9.750 and had to settle for the silver medal.

"It was really hard to get two gold medals, now it's getting harder and harder. But I will try to get more gold medals at the European Championships, the world championships and the Olympic games — of course," Scherbo said. Andreas Wecker gave Ger-

many their first gold of the championships and celebrated the first world title of his career for a routine on the horizontal bar which included a double flip above the bar. He scored a commanding 9.812 points.

"I've been going through my exercise in my dreams and today I think I was physically able to come up trumps as well," said Wecker, who celebrated his victory with a Beer Asag cigarette.

The raucous capacity crowd at the Sun Dome had a home performance to cheer when Yoshiaki Hatakeda took the silver with 9.775 points.

Russian Alexei Nemov, winner of three gold medals at this year's European Cup, shared the vault title with Grigory Misutin.

Nemov, 19, produced two solid vaults with perfect landings, while the baby-faced Misutin snatched the highest score of 9.8 points for his first effort which incorporated a difficult stretched salto with two full twists.

"I'm very happy to win my first gold medal in the world championships," he said. "The only problem was that I had to use chopsticks in Japan and I've never learned how to."

Gina Gogean was hugely satisfied that she managed to complete a near-flawless floor exercise after seeing all her rivals make significant errors. Mo, the pre-championship favourite, convincingly led

the field after the team event but saw her hopes of winning the all-round competition evaporate when she fell from the beam. She made amends in the individual beam final on Tuesday.

"I tried to forget what happened in the all-round competition so I could be more relaxed today," said the tiny 1.30-metre Mo, who beamed and giggled her way through the press conference.

She ended her beautifully balanced sequence with a gravity-defying tucked double backward salto to place her leagues ahead of her two main rivals, Lilia Podkopyayeva and Dominique Moceanu.

Podkopyayeva's sparkling routines brought her victory in the all-round competition — Ukraine's first-ever world title — and a shared gold in Monday's vault. Joint runner-up on the asymmetric bars on Monday, she shared a second place again on Tuesday — this time with Moceanu on the beam.

U.S. medal hopes in Atlanta next year will be pinned on the elite Moceanu, the youngest U.S. all-round champion who turned 14 on Saturday.

Moceanu, whose parents are Romanian, came fifth in the all-round competition. Fellow American Shannon Miller, twice all-round champion and last year's champion on the beam, was fourth with 9.762 points.



Grigory Misutin of Ukraine jumps onto the horse to share the gold with Russia's Alexei Nemov in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)



Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus concentrates as he flips over the parallel bars on his way to win gold in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN SHMEISANI

Located behind Commodore Hotel and occupies complete floor. Area 280m², three large bedrooms, one is master. Large guest and fitting area, three baths, large kitchen. All other services available including telephone, standard is deluxe.

Interested in tenants for one year or more, Please call 667728 for additional information.

FOR RENT

1. New furnished apartment in Abdoun. Ground floor (220 sq.m.). Spacious salon, sitting and dining room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, maid's room, big garden, separate central heating, electricity and water.
2. New apartment. Excellent location, Shmeisani. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, large salon, large terrace, kitchen, central heating, telephone. Furnished or unfurnished.
3. First floor unfurnished apartment, new furniture. Three bedrooms, salon, dining room, sitting room, large terrace, office room, three bathrooms, kitchen, separate central heating, telephone, lift, with an area of 280 sq.m. Location: Shmeisani, west of Marriott Hotel.
4. Fully furnished apartments for rent, Shmeisani. In a quiet class "A" residential area. Two bedrooms, office or T.V. room, full bathroom, guest toilet, reception cum dining & T.V., kitchen. All services are excellent and separate.
5. Furnished apartment for rent, Shmeisani. Two single bedrooms, bathroom, one master bedroom, dressing room, fully-equipped kitchen, living room, balcony, sitting and dining room, bathroom, maid's room.

Please contact, for one week, 672931 Abu Mohammed

European Community Chamber Orchestra

Under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Samir Habashneh, Minister of Culture the Delegation of the European Commission along with EU Member State Embassies and Cultural Centres, presents

ECCO

European Community Chamber Orchestra in concert at the Prince Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan on Friday 13 October 1995 at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket price 5 JD (3 JD for students) Tickets available at the Goethe Institut, the British Council, the Instituto Cervantes and the French Cultural Centre and at the venue. The Orchestra will hold a workshop with students of the National Music Conservatory on Saturday 14 October 1995 at 16:30.

Revenue will be given to charity

Searchers express pessimism over missing French climbers

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Rescue workers searching for two French climbers missing in the Himalayas for five days expressed pessimism Tuesday after again failing to find any trace of the men, a Nepalese Tourism Ministry source told AFP.

Benoit Chamouk, 34, from Paris, and Pierre Royer, 43, a cameraman from the Alpine town of Les Houches, went missing on October 5 while heading for the summit of 8,586-metre Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest

mountain. "From the Nepalese side, a rescue helicopter bombed the Kanchenjunga mountain from both northern and southern routes but failed to find any sign of the two ill-fated mountaineers," said a radio message from rescuers at the mountain's base camp. But the search would continue, the tourism ministry said.

An Indian rescue helicopter had also searched for the missing French climbers from

the Indian side of the Kanchenjunga, which lies on the Nepal-Indian frontier. But it also failed to find evidence of the climbers, said a French mountaineering source who declined to be identified.

The source said two Sherpas climbed to 8,200 metres "but returned without any information about the missing French climbers."

The French climbers were last seen moving together, slowly and exhausted, above 8,200 metres, the source said. He said the search would continue for two more days. Though officially the climbers are said to be missing, mountaineering organisations say the two are presumed dead.

The two men were members of a six-member expedition led by Michel Pelle, 48, a mountain guide from Chamounix.

Nepalese Tourism Ministry officials have so far only confirmed the death of Riku Sherpa, 33, a mountain guide from Solukhumbu in Everest region, who fell 400 metres (1,320 feet) while carrying a load for the French climbers.

The climbers were attempting to reach the top from a camp at 7,800 metres via the technically difficult southwest face, according to a ministry official.

Steeplechaser Kiptanui set to switch races

NAIROBI (R) — World record holder Moses Kiptanui has nothing more to prove in his speciality steeplechase and a switch to other distance races is imminent, the Kenyan athlete said in interviews published on Monday.

"I feel there is nothing for me to prove. But I am still looking to running under eight minutes five to six times," Kiptanui told the East African, a weekly printed in Nairobi.

Kiptanui became the first man ever to run the 3,000 metres steeplechase in seven minutes 59.18 seconds when he set the world record at the globe's most expensive meeting in Zurich last August.

He has said next year's Atlanta Olympics final was likely to be his last steeplechase because he still had no Olympic gold and then he would switch to 1,500 and 5,000 metres.

Responding to criticism that top African athletes skipped the all Africa Games to run for money in

Europe, Kiptanui said:

"This is nonsense. After all, who doesn't want money in life. People should understand that athletics is now big business. Most athletes train hard to better their living."

Kiptanui also attacked the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) for what he called unfair treatment of young athletes: "In many ways up-and-coming athletes are not treated well by the KAAA. This is a major issue."

He added: "The association must learn to listen to the views of the athletes."

Kiptanui warned against complacency by the Kenyans, saying the world was learning Kenyan training techniques and methods and even the steeplechase could not for long be considered a Kenyan preserve.

In an interview with the daily Nation, Kiptanui said he was planning to regain "sometime next year" the 5,000 metres world record he lost to Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie last August.

LOST

I, Sawran Singh S/o Bhulla Ram, of Indian nationality have lost my passport No. B 202123 issued in Amman, and my work permit No. 305B and my residence permit. If found please deliver to the nearest police station or the Indian Embassy

FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

- * One bedroom, living, K & B.
- * Studio of one bedroom, K & B.
- C.H. and telephone. Location: Jabal Amman, near Khalidi Hospital, 7 Mustafa Khalifah St.

Tel: 667862, 642351, Fax: 663002

FOR RENT

Unfurnished Three Bedroom Apartment 4th floor, lift, C.H. & telephone. Location: Shmeisani near Birds Garden, 10 Abed Al Haleem Al Nimr St. Tel: 667862, 693443, Fax 663002

WANTED

DENTAL ASSISTANT / SECRETARY

Dentist requires female to work as dental assistant/ secretary, fluency in English is a must, previous experience is an asset.

For further details call: 622363 or 636708

ALNAFEES fashion Announces Liquidation Sale

50% - 80% off the 94/95 winter collection

JABAL AMMAN 3rd circle tower bldg. ground floor, Tel. 648219

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSCH
©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4A Q 63 0A Q 10 5 4 A J 9 8 5

The bidding has proceeded: EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH 2 0 Pass 3 0 Pass 7 Pass

What action do you take? "preemptive"

A - It sounds as if this is your hand, but the spade shortage prevents you from making a takeout double. The solution is to bid three no trump. Since you didn't act at your first turn, this cannot be natural. It can only be for takeout with accent on the minor suits.

Q.2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4 Q J 9 4 0 K J 7 5 2 0 6 4 A 8 5

The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 1 0 Pass 2 0 Pass 3 0 Pass 7 Pass

What action do you take? A - Partner's bid shows a balanced hand and invites you to game if you are at the top of your range. With seven high-card points, two doubletons and a fifth trump, it would be charitable of you to bid less than four hearts.

Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

4 A Q 9 8 3 0 6 5 0 7 4 A K 4 2

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1 0 Pass 1 NT Pass 2 0 Pass 7 Pass

What action do you take? A - Partner's bidding describes a hand of 10 points or fewer with no particular liking for either of your suits and almost surely a six-card diamond suit, so where would you like to go? Pass.

Q.4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4 A Q J 7 5 0 A Q 9 8 2 0 A 7 A 6

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1 0 Pass 1 NT Pass 7 Pass

What do you bid now? A - With five cards in each major, your hand is simply too good not to insist on game. Jump shift to three hearts. No matter what partner bids, complete the description of your hand by rebidding four hearts.

Q.5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

0 6 A 8 7 0 J 7 4 2 A E J 7 8 3

The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 1 0 1 A 7

What do you bid now? A - The problem with responding two clubs is that it would leave you in an untenable position on the next round because partner will be expecting another bid from you. Suppose partner rebids two hearts. A raise to three hearts would be a distinct overbid, while passing could result in a missed game. You avoid the problem by raising to two hearts now.

Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

0 J 2 0 K 9 8 0 A Q 9 7 6 A E 8 2

The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH 1 0 1 0 2 A 7

What action do you take? A - With 15 high-card points facing a partner who made a vulnerable overall, we would not be prepared to stop short of game. To protect our positional club stopper, we would opt for three no trump. Partner can always correct if his hand is unsuitable for no-trump play.

TODAY AT

CINEMA

TEL: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Robert Redford, Demi Moore & Woody Harrelson
Indecent Proposal
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL: 699238

PLAZA

Sandra Bullock & Bill Pullman
in
While You Were Sleeping
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness (Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
Arnold Schwarzenegger...in
Conan The Barbarian
Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

AMMOUN THEATRE

TEL: 618274 - 618275

MUSA HIJAZIN
"Sumaa"
in

Hi Citizen
daily at 8:30 p.m.
Written & directed by
Mohammad Shawaqfeh

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

TEL: 625155

Presents
"Peace Oh Peace"
in English every Saturday
Show starts at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation call 625155



Paul Gascoigne

Forget Gazza, England boss tells his stand-ins

LONDON (AFP) — England coach Terry Venables will have a clear message for his midfield men in Norway on Wednesday — forget Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne misses the friendly international through injury, giving Newcastle star Robert Lee and Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp the chance to prove themselves at the top level.

But the last thing Venables wants is for the duo to try and emulate the Glasgow Rangers star.

"You cannot copy Gascoigne," he said. "But I'm not saying there's nobody as good as him — it's just that he's so different, he's unique."

"But if he's not playing, others can offer different things. They are all in the squad as they are outstanding at what they do at the top level. And maybe they do some things better than him in different areas of the game."

Lee, at 29, is an international late developer but he scored on his debut against Romania a year ago and replaced Gazza in the goalless draw against Colombia last month.

"He did well, scoring against Romania and playing against Nigeria, and then was injured," recalls Venables. "But he's a very intelligent player, very similar to Platt in that he will score goals from midfield."

"He has a good touch and his tackling is also good — a good all-rounder who has done remarkably well for Newcastle."

Redknapp, a former under-21 captain, is the more creative player who did well in Gascoigne's shadow against the South Americans.

"He's coming along well," says Venables. "The youngsters are getting opportunities because of injuries but are staking their claim every time they play. They know if they are to be serious about breaking through they must do that every time."

The match has a special significance for England, who have not beaten Norway for four matches and who lost disastrously 2-0 when they last visited Oslo.

Norwegian manager Egil Olsen has been guarding Venables recently, saying he has ruined England's strengths by trying to play a passing game.

But the England boss retorted: "He's not going to very successful, he won't wind me up."

Venables looks set to make at least three changes, with Gary Pallister returning for Steve Hovewy to partner Tony Adams at the centre of defence and former captain Stuart Pearce winning his 60th cap at left back in place of injured Graeme Le Saux.

On the right, Gary Neville could win his fourth cap although Rob Jones is fit and challenging for his position.

The big dilemma remains Alan Shearer or Les Ferdinand as the lone front man.

Probable team: Seaman (Arsenal), Neville (Manchester United), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Adams (Arsenal), Pallister (Manchester United), Wise (Chelsea), Redknapp (Liverpool), Lee (Newcastle), Shearer (Blackburn), Barmby (Middlesbrough), McManaman (Liverpool).

Ivanisevic given a roasting by Gloria

TOKYO (AFP) — Goran Ivanisevic suffering from a fever survived a scare with American qualifier Louis Gloria in his opening match in defence of the Tokyo Seiko Super ATP title here on Tuesday winning 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 7-6 (9/7).

The hard-hitting Croat had to fight back from match point down and committed one of his 14 double faults when serving for the second round match. His erratic serving also cost him a chance to win the first set.

But Ivanisevic eventually quashed the spirited challenge in two hours 21 minutes.

"The first match is always difficult. Gloria had already played the first round and he had nothing to lose. He played really good in the tie-breaker," said Ivanisevic.

"I had a high fever six days ago and I'm not feeling good yet. I hope I will have a quicker match in the next two rounds," he added.

In the third round, the second seed will take on Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, who eliminated 10th-seeded Aaron Krickstein of the United States 6-4, 6-0.

Novak then upset Korda 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, prevailing in the final set with sharp groundstrokes from the baseline.

In other first round action, Joost Winnink of the Netherlands upset eighth-seeded Argentinian Javier Frana 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) and Germany's Patrick Kuehnen beat Greg Rusedski of Great Britain 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Top seed Yevgeni Kafelnikov of Russia and second-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland join tournament's first round action on Tuesday.

Kasparov draws the 17th game, retains title

NEW YORK (AP) — Garry Kasparov retained his world chess title Monday when he held on to draw the 17th game of his championship match with Viswanathan Anand, raising the score to 10-7 in his favour.

The winner of the 20-game Professional Chess Association contest must score 10.5 points, but match rules state that in the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov would keep his title.

It is Kasparov's fifth successful defence of the title he won in 1985.

The 18th game, scheduled for Tuesday, was to decide the division of the \$1.35 million prize fund, which was reduced from \$1.5 million. Match spokesman Andrew Finan said the prize fund had been lowered 10 per cent to pay for additional organisational and promotion costs.

The winner will receive \$900,000 and the loser \$450,000. If Anand wins the remaining three games to tie the contest, the prize money will be split.

Playing with the white pieces, Anand, 25, of India, came close to defeating Kasparov, but the champion held on in a difficult endgame.

On the 63rd move, Anand was forced to trade down to a totally dead king versus king position. With no other pieces on the board, the players agreed to a draw.

When play began, Kasparov, 32, of Russia, played the

razor-sharp dragon variation of the Sicilian defence.

Play mirrored the two men's 11th game and until Anand's 13th move. The challenger rejected the possibility of launching an all-out checkmating attack. Instead, he chose to trade down to an advantageous endgame where his pieces were more active than the champion's.

In the endgame, each side had a king, a rook and six pawns. Anand was able to manoeuvre his rook to the queen's side and win a key pawn.

But on the 37th move, Anand allowed Kasparov to trade off his dangerous "b" pawn, reducing white's winning chances. Anand thrust his "a" pawn up the board, but Kasparov was able to surround it and win it on the 47th move.

On his 49th move, Anand pushed his "f" pawn up the board and managed to promote it into a queen on his 59th move. But Kasparov was able to trade his rook for the queen and push his own centre pawn up the board.

On the 63rd move, Anand sacrificed his rook for the pawn, and the players agreed to a draw.

In the final position Kasparov would be able to capture Anand's rook, leading to a hopelessly drawn position with just the kings on the board.

"Anand kept his promise," said Indian chess writer V. Krishnaswamy. "He took

one more shot at Kasparov."

Kasparov said it was difficult to play knowing he had a three-point lead and only needed a draw.

"The only way to prepare psychologically was to consider this the last game of the match and it gave me the strength to survive," Kasparov said.

The champion agreed with commentators who said Anand had missed a win on the 37th move.

"I was surprised Visy didn't go for that," he said.

Despite the stunning views of the New York City skyline from the windows of the 107th floor observation deck at the World Trade Centre, the eyes of about 600 spectators were locked on the chess moves.

Kasparov said his loss in the ninth game of the contest, which gave Anand the lead, was not his worst moment in the contest. He said that came just before the first game.

"Before the match, I could feel I wasn't using all my potential and that was scary," Kasparov said. But he said Anand's victory spurred him into action.

"It took enormous energy, I started working like I never did in my life," he said.

Kasparov was asked whether he would play for a win on Tuesday or settle for a draw.

"I haven't decided yet, but I hope that the match will be over tomorrow," he said.



Garry Kasparov of Russia, ponders a move as opponent Viswanathan Anand of India, background, returns from a break during their match in New York (Reuters photo)

Russia go to Italy for Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — This year's Davis Cup finalists Russia lost their cherished, if controversial, home advantage in the 1996 Davis Cup which was drawn on Tuesday, travelling to Italy for their first-round tie.

The Russians, who have played at home for the last three rounds of this year's event and meet the U.S. in the final in Moscow in December, were embroiled in a row after the semifinals.

The tie was delayed amid accusations from opponents Germany that the court had been sabotaged to help the slow-court skills of the home side.

Germany, who lost the semifinal 3-2 after a nail-biting final match during which Michael Stich failed to convert nine match points against Andrei Chesnokov, are drawn for the 1996 competition against Switzerland, who have choice of venue.

The United States, who have won the competition 30 times since it started in 1900, have home advantage over Mexico in the first round.

'China table tennis championships flopped'

NIMES, France (AFP) — World Cup tournament director Patrick Birocheau branded the table tennis world championships in China earlier this year as "the worst ever organised."

Mr. Birocheau, who will run the first ever men's singles World Cup in Europe from Oct. 12 to 15 here, believed the Tianjin world event in May was far from a credit to the sport.

Mr. Birocheau is a former world-class French international with vast experience of the game — he even knocked out defending champion Istvan Jonyer of Hungary in the 1977 world championships in England.

But Mr. Birocheau, a former teammate of table tennis legend and 1976 European champion Jacques Secrétin and current French coach Christian Martin, had no doubts about China's poor organisation at Tianjin.

"Each round was played at the same time — for instance the last 16 had four matches in the main hall and four matches in another hall, meaning spectators could only watch one of the match-

es," Mr. Birocheau said on Tuesday.

He was therefore determined to organise this 16-strong, World Cup invitation, event, with a high quality field, with the spectator in mind.

He added only one table would be used throughout the four-day event, enabling people to see every point of every match.

Special lighting would be used to spotlight the table area.

The players will also be presented to the public before the match and will be asked to speak on the public address system afterwards.

A giant screen, using creative use of television pictures, will also replay any spectacular points.

"In my view, this is the way forward for the sport. It must be made more attractive to the spectator," he added.

Meanwhile African champion Sule Olaleye of Nigeria, North American champion Johnny Huang, and Cuba's South American champion Francisco de Armas were due to arrive in Nimes on Tuesday.

2 Japanese expeditions scale Himalayan peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Two Japanese expeditions have scaled the world's sixth highest peak on the same day, the tourism ministry said Tuesday.

The teams reached the top of Dhaulagiri-I from the northeast ridge on Oct. 6, it said in a statement. The peak is 8,167 metres high.

Four members of the Japan Snow Leopard Dhaulagiri-I expedition were accompanied by two Nepali guides. Two members of the other team, the Miyazaki University Dhaulagiri-I expedition, also were accompanied by two guides during the ascent, the ministry said.

The Snow Leopard team consisted of Kazuyoshi Kondo, 54, Iwao Kuwabara, 60, Sumito Takeda, 30 and Takaharu Hayashi, 44.

The five-member expedition, which was permitted to climb the peak from the northeast ridge, was led by Kondo, a mountaineering instructor. His first name was not immediately available.

The two climbers from the university were Kimio Narasaki, 49, and Keiji Ueda, 23.

De Villiers fails 2nd drugs test

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Lisa de Villiers, the youngest athlete to fail a drugs test, has tested positive for the same substance for the second time in five months.

A statement issued on Tuesday by Athletics South Africa (ASA) Secretary General Banele Sindani said 14-year-old de Villiers was tested on September 24 and "the results still showed the presence of an anabolic steroid, nandrolone."

The statement said ASA "would like to believe that the presence of this substance is still related to the test done in April 1995."

"We will have to investigate the reasons for the positive test afresh," Sindani said.

De Villiers was banned for four years after testing positive for the anabolic

steroid nandrolone and the stimulant fencamfamine at the national junior championships in April. She had competed in the under-17 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump.

According to International Amateur Athletic Federation rules, athletes must make themselves available for three out-of-competition tests during the banned period. The September test was the first of the three for de Villiers.

Piano Bar Restaurant
Turino
Creators Of The
Sizzling Fillet
Exclusive yet
affordable
With Self & Nawfal
CULINARY ITALO-MED
Sweetfayeh 863944

Oktoberfest

Sponsored by

The German Embassy

Oktoberfest is the occasion you have all been waiting for. Once again, join us with a transferred from the day-to-day routine into the Bavarian atmosphere in Germany. Where there will be an endless flow of beer and lots of fun. Dance away the evening, enjoy our selection of games and prizes, which include a return ticket to Germany, offered by Lufthansa.

Dress for the occasion, because we will be watching out for the best German costume.

Oktoberfest is the most fun you can have in the city of Osnabrück.

0511 501 2222

INVITATION TO THAILAND TRADE EXHIBITION IN JORDAN AT FORTE GRAND AMMAN HOTEL

14-16 OCTOBER 1995
THE FIRST TIME EVER IN JORDAN

15 October 1995 16 October 1995
daily from 10:00 to 18:00 hours from 10:00 to 13:00 hours

YES!! THAILAND TRADE EXHIBITION. DON'T MISS IT

Exhibitors are ready to establish the prominent business with you!

Products ranging from:

Food	Footwear	Artificial Flowers	Electrical Transformers
Prime Textile	Confectionery	Hair Ornaments	Steel and Office Furniture
High Fringing	Home Textiles	Household Items	Ready-Made Garments
Tools	Auto Spare Parts	Paper products	and more

For Trade Visitors Only

For more information please contact:

Thai Trade Center P.O. Box 1082, Dubai, U.A.E. (Tel: 971-4) 284553 Fax: (971-4) 228934	Royal Thai Consulate General, Jordan P.O. Box 26, Amman, Jordan (Tel: (962) 622843 Fax: (962) 653217
--	--

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli 'tourists' make secret visit to Baghdad

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of Israelis of Iraqi origin have travelled to Iraq, a leading foe of the Jewish state, and returned to tell of secret visits to Baghdad, state radio reported Tuesday. It said Turkish border guards allowed the Israeli "tourists," including Kurdish Jews, to cross into Kurd-held northern Iraq because their passports showed their Iraqi origins. "I wanted to visit the grave of my parents and our saints because there's nothing left," said Sarah Hatan, 64, who lives in the Galilee region of northern Israel, after her 10-day visit to a Kurdish town. "The Iraqis have built over the cemetery and all I found were scattered bones," she said. Others travelled south to the Iraqi capital with the help of bodyguards and guides, at a cost of thousands of dollars each, the radio said. None of them was detained. They visited Jewish graves in Baghdad and met family members, some of them converts to Islam. The radio cautioned that Israel's embassy in Turkey does not advise such expeditions.

Killer of tourists found dead near Tangier

TANGIER (R) — A policeman who shot dead two British tourists in the north Moroccan city of Tangier last week has been found dead after he apparently committed suicide, Moroccan police said on Tuesday. "Security forces found the killer in a house situated few kilometres north of Tangier. He seemed to have committed suicide," a police spokesman told Reuters. The killer had been identified as off-duty police inspector Mustapha Hamouche, a 39-year-old father of four who went on a shooting spree at a seaside hotel last Friday after killing his wife. Three other tourists, including 12-year-old British schoolgirl Charlean Barker Hall, were wounded in the attack at the Tariq Hotel. Moroccan security police and para-military units have been hunting the killer with identity checks and roadblocks set up in northern Morocco.

Billion-dollar case against Rabin opens

CAIRO (AFP) — A billion-dollar law suit brought against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin opened in Egypt Tuesday seeking compensation for the massacres of Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) during the 1956 and 1967 wars. But the court in the Nile Delta town of Dammanhur in north Egypt said Israel had not received any official notification of the suit, the lawyer who filed the suit, Hanan Subhi Al Shami, told AFP. The Israeli embassy in Cairo had refused to accept the notification of the suit, the hearing was told. So the court ordered Egypt's prosecutor general to ask the Foreign Minister to pass it on to Israel through diplomatic channels and the case was adjourned until Dec. 12, Mr. Shami said.

Abdul Meguid to attend summit in Amman

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid will attend a Middle East economic conference in Amman later in October, a league spokesman said here on Tuesday. Talaat Hamed announced Dr. Meguid would go to Jordan for the Oct. 29-31 summit in Amman in which more than 60 countries are to take part. The league head will then go to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 30 to meet President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to discuss reconciliation between Arab states after the 1991 Gulf war.

'Toxic waste secretly stored in Lebanon'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The environmentalist watchdog Greenpeace on Tuesday accused Lebanon of secretly gathering toxic waste from Italy and stockpiling it ahead of incineration. "Authorities in Lebanon are now secretly collecting toxic waste barrels and contaminated land for planned incineration in Europe in the coming months," said Greenpeace spokesman for the Mediterranean Fuad Hamdan. Mr. Hamdan slammed the operation as an "ecological crime," citing the lack of special storage sites in Lebanon. "Most of the toxic waste is still near its original dumping or storage sites close to residential areas, thus endangering the population. They should be stored in special sites in line with international standards," Mr. Hamdan told a press conference in Beirut. More than 50 barrels were stored last week in a construction site for a new government hospital on the southern outskirts of Beirut. According to press reports residents to the area complained of leaking gases.

Iraqi diplomat in Europe 'defects'

CAIRO (AP) — A former Iraqi diplomat in Europe has defected to Britain and joined an exiled opposition group trying to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the group said Tuesday. The diplomat was also a former head of protocol at the presidential palace in Baghdad, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement in London. The council did not identify him, but the Associated Press learned he was Haitham Rashid Hassan, who served in embassies in Paris and Dakar, Senegal, before he was arrested in 1990. He was held for several months and reportedly interrogated by the Iraqi intelligence service before being released. The reason for his arrest was not known and he was later allowed to travel.

Suspected militants kill Egyptian policeman

CAIRO (AFP) — Suspected extremists killed a policeman Tuesday on his way home from work in southern Egypt. Three assailants ambushed Mohammed Abdul Fattah in Samallut, a region about 120 kilometres south of Cairo where Islamic militants have often clashed with police. The gunman escaped, police said. Southern Egypt is the main site of clashes between the police and militants seeking to overthrow the government and install Islamic rule. More than 840 people have died in the violence since 1992, most of them police or extremists.

Opposition leader arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (AFP) — The leader of Tunisia's main opposition party has been detained on suspicion of being a paid foreign agent, judicial sources said here Tuesday. They said Mohammed Mouada, the head of the Socialist Democratic Movement, was arrested Monday in a search of his home which uncovered documents detailing his "secret and compromising" links to a foreign country to exchange for large sums of money. Several thousand dollars were also seized at his home, the sources said, but they would not say which country Mr. Mouada was alleged to have worked for. Mr. Mouada has been under investigation since March last year when police held a foreign national who they said was preparing to hand him a large amount of hard currency. Although there was no official comment as to which country could have paid him, observers pointed to Libya with which Mr. Mouada has had relations on a party basis.

Lebanon's 'Mr. Clean' faces jail

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese prosecutor has indicated opposition deputy Najah Wakim on slander charges which could put him in jail for one year, court sources said on Tuesday. Prosecutor Abdullah Bitar says Mr. Wakim defamed Justice Minister Bahige Tabbara by accusing him of granting a company, with which Mr. Tabbara's wife has close ties, a contract to carry out repairs of the Justice Ministry. Mr. Tabbara denied any wrongdoing while Mr. Wakim promised to come up with proof of his accusation. Mr. Wakim, an opposition deputy dubbed "Mr. Clean" because of his virulent campaigns denouncing corruption in the government, has charged that he is the victim of pressure exerted by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.



FREE: A Palestinian youth makes the V-for-victory sign after his brother was freed from Israeli jail at the Nahal-Oz crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel as part of a prisoner release agreed upon in the Sept. 28 autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (AFP photo)

Kuwaitis' security jitters ease off

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis, hit again by security jitters about Iraq, were breathing easier on Tuesday after the government played down fears of an imminent new threat from their former occupier.

Diplomats and lawmakers said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah had also shored up faltering confidence in the economy by staging a rare news conference to discuss rumours that Iraq might soon try to repeat its 1990 invasion.

At Monday's conference Sheikh Saad repeated his longstanding allegation that Iraq would try to stage fresh attacks on Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states at the first opportunity.

But he denied a Sept. 27 newspaper report that he had predicted Iraq would attempt this in the next three months. He said he did not know when Iraq would make a move.

Kuwaitis, who have expected nothing but the worst from Baghdad ever since its 1990-91 occupation, focused less on Sheikh Saad's warning of an Iraqi threat and more on his denial that he said one was imminent, diplomats said.

"I think he was trying to calm things down. If you read between the lines," Mr. Mohammad Al Sager, editor-in-chief of Al Qabas newspaper, told Reuters.

"Sheikh Saad reduced the tension caused two weeks ago. Basically he was saying nothing with respect to Iraq has changed," said independent economist Jassem Al Saadoun.

"Sheikh Saad has cleared up the ambiguity and extinguished the blaze of rumours (about Iraq) that had spread like wildfire," wrote Al Anba columnist Wael Al Hassawi. Confidence in the economy, still recovering from a battering during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, was jolted when Al Seyasseh daily on Sept. 27 reported Sheikh Saad as saying that Iraq might try to invade again between October and December.

In subsequent days some bankers reported overseas contacts were reducing levels of business. Prices fell about one per cent on the stock exchange and some residents said they were preparing to move money out of the country.

After the news conference the exchange's price index finished trade on Monday up two points in steady volume.

Kuwaitis say they share Sheikh Saad's view that Iraq remains a long-term threat but many say sanctions-hit Baghdad is in no shape to make a sustained strike against its neighbours.

Mr. Saadoun said Sheikh Saad's comments had reduced the risk of a surge in capital flight and a possible run on the dinar.

Kuwaiti morale was also boosted by what deputies called Sheikh Saad's confident handling of the news conference and a mood of openness the event helped conjure up.

Sheikh Saad, relaxed and speaking without notes, made a statement and then took two hours of questions.

Peace national option for Jordan, Lawzi tells IPU

BUCHAREST (Petra) —

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said Tuesday that the option for peace was unanimously endorsed by Jordan's leadership, people, and political and intellectual powers and that both the Jordanian leadership and people were unanimous on the need to build Jordan as a model country characterised by justice, freedom, equality, democracy and respect for human rights.

In an address to the 54th session of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) held at the Romanian capital of Bucharest, Mr. Lawzi called for a united position to counter war, injustice, denial of human rights, over-exploitation of and the unequal distribution of resources, poverty, illiteracy and diseases.

Mr. Lawzi called on the international community to adopt a common approach that respects human rights, particularly the right of people to live in peace within the framework of a just and fair system which does not allow the strong to threaten the weak.

Mr. Lawzi called for shifting the funds spent on arms of mass destruction to services benefiting the people and meeting their basic needs.

Mr. Lawzi on Monday met with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, the speaker of the Romanian Senate and heads of the delegations taking part in the meeting. He praised His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish peace and reviewed Jordan's democratic march, parliamentary life and political pluralism.

Mr. Lawzi spoke about the preparations under way in Jordan to host the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit and voiced hope that Romania will participate actively in the summit.

On Tuesday Mr. Lawzi met with IPU President Fathi Srour, who is also speaker of the Egyptian People's Council, and discussed with him the need to form an international parliamentary body which will be entrusted with encouraging inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue.

Such a dialogue will be very helpful in explaining the tolerant nature of Islam and refuting the incorrect accusations against Islam, and all attempts aimed at linking it with terrorism, extremism and violence, he said.

Mr. Lawzi said he had no intention of "the slightest interference" in interior Algerian affairs.

The most radical of the fundamentalists fighting Mr. Zeroual's regime, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), has been widely blamed for a series of bomb attacks in France, which it has accused of backing the regime in the former French colony.

There has been concern in France that any meeting between Mr. Zeroual and Mr. Chirac could inflame the situation further.

Violence continues

Gunmen killed a Muslim prayer leader outside his home in Algiers and a secular Berber activist was shot dead in the eastern town of Bouira, Algerian newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Two gunmen ambushed the 65-year-old mosque imam, Mohammed Bedoui, on Monday morning in the Bab Jedid sector of the old heart of Algiers and shot him in the head, Al Watan newspaper said.

At least 52 imams have been killed during the past year in attacks blamed on the militants campaigning to topple the government.

The mosques have been caught in the middle of a battle between authorities and Muslim activists.

Democracy is the only solution, Chirac to tell Zeroual at U.N.

MADRID (Agencies) —

French President Jacques Chirac said on Tuesday he would meet Algerian President Liamine Zeroual this month in New York and would try to convince him that only by widening democracy will Algeria resolve its problems.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a two-day official visit to Spain, Mr. Chirac said Mr. Zeroual had asked him for the meeting to take place during ceremonies to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations at the end of October.

The former colonial power is anxious about not being seen to take sides in Algeria's civil war at a time when Algerian extremists have claimed responsibility for a wave of bomb attacks in France.

Mr. Chirac said he hoped to hear what the Algerian president has to say ahead of presidential elections in Algeria in the next few weeks, but would also tell him that he hoped for a widening of the democratic process there.

"What will I tell him? That there cannot be a solution to the Algerian problem unless it is a political one," he said.

"A first step has been taken with presidential elections, but in my opinion an

150 Brothers to run in Egyptian polls

CAIRO (AFP) — Around

150 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood will run in legislative elections due to be held in Egypt in November, the fundamentalist group said on Tuesday.

The Arab daily Al Hayat ran a list of 150 Brotherhood candidates on Tuesday, saying they had been approved by the group's leadership.

Brotherhood spokesman Maamun Al Hodeibi could not confirm the names on the list, but he told AFP that the number 150 "was reasonable and would not be an exaggeration."

Mr. Hodeibi, who has declared his own candidacy in a Cairo voting district, said the Brotherhood

would not announce a list of candidates.

"Elections this year are by individuals, not by voting lists as in the past. Also while other parties can run a list of their candidates, our situation is well known. If we did that the government would cause us problems," he said.

The Brotherhood was banned in 1954 and, although tolerated since the mid-1970s, its truce with the government ended last year when President Hosni Mubarak accused it of being the source of violent extremist groups.

Dozens of members have been arrested this year and the Brotherhood accuses the government of using the crackdown to scuttle its

Initial voting begins in Iraq plebiscite

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq geared up Tuesday for the country's presidential referendum, announcing the start of preliminary voting and criticising foreign journalists who began arriving to cover the poll.

The "advance vote" started on Monday and is to continue until Thursday. It includes officials overseeing the polling, interior security forces and others who will have to work during Sunday's elections.

About 7.5 million people over the age of 18 are eligible to vote among Iraq's 19 million residents in the referendum to endorse Saddam Hussein for another seven-year term as president, an official said.

The Iraqi press was critical of Western journalists arriving as part of the 10,000 foreigners invited to observe the poll.

11,400 children die

Iraq said Monday that 11,400 children were dying every month because of the crippling U.N. embargo slapped on the country more than five years ago.

Health Minister Umid Medhat told a conference in Baghdad that on average 5,300 children under the age of five were dying monthly, along with another 5,900 more than five years old.

He did not say what the death rate had been before the U.N. Security Council imposed an oil and trade embargo on the country after it invaded Kuwait in August, 1990.

But the head of the Iraqi doctors' association, Nayef Hassuni, told the conference to examine the effects of the embargo, saying that the general death rate had tripled since 1989.

Dr. Medhat said the rise in the number of deaths was due to "a lack of medical materials and necessary equipment for cleaning, purifying water and the sewerage system."

"Some illnesses which Iraq had got rid of have reappeared," he added.

"The lack of medicines and food because of the embargo is a continued American aggression," the head of the Arab doctors union, Hassan Khoreich, said, referring to the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Iraq has refused a U.N. offer to sell some oil to meet humanitarian needs, saying it was a violation of its sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Al Thawra daily appealed to the U.N. Security Council to take into account Baghdad's cooperation on disarmament when it decides this week on whether to lift the sanctions.

The newspaper of the ruling Baath party said it would be "logical" for the Security Council to consider "the progress made by Iraq" on dismantling its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes.

"The Security Council must adopt a just position because Iraq has sincerely its obligations," the paper said.

However, Western diplomats in New York said the special U.N. panel on Iraq's disarmament was to deliver a downbeat report to the council which should delay any chance of easing U.N. sanctions on Baghdad.

rights group called on the government to reform laws to ensure "that the coming legislative elections are conducted in a free and fair manner."

The Centre for Human Rights Legal Aid (CHRLA) recommended in a statement that the Supreme Judicial Council should be granted "total supervisory power" over voting.

It also called for a certain amount of broadcasting time on state-run television and radio to be given over to opposition candidates.

Opposition parties often accuse the state of monopolising the media for the benefit of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

The group, like most opposition parties, boycotted the last elections in 1990. But this year all parties have decided to participate.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian

COLUMN

Brazilian survives 20 hours trapped in a sewer

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A 16-year old Brazilian survived 20 hours in a city sewer system after a flash flood swept him into an open drain. TV Globo reported Monday. Otacilio De Almeida Jr. was dragged about three miles (5-km) before he was discovered trapped under a drain cover by rescue workers in the town of Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais state, the television network said. He suffered bone fractures and had to be lifted out of the sewer after the cover was opened with an automatic saw. "I am so happy he's been found. It is as if he has been born again," his mother told TV Globo.

Where is O. J.? Caribbean state wonders

CASA DE CAMPO, Dominican Republic (R) — Reporters, television crew and the curious flew to a swanky Dominican resort hoping to track down O. J. Simpson, but he was nowhere to be found. At the Casa De Campo, the tourist paradise rumoured to be Simpson's destination, a desk clerk joked, "and there is where O. J. Simpson is staying," drawing an X at random on a map of the facility. The journalistic stampede was sparked by a report in Listin Diario, a daily newspaper in the capital Santo Domingo, that Simpson planned to fly to the Dominican Republic with girlfriend Paula Barbieri. The report said the couple might be planning a wedding at Casa De Campo.

China gives 'oldest awards' to 472

BEIJING (R) — China, a society that venerates longevity, has given awards to the 472 most outstanding old people of 1995, including an elite 48 singled out as the best. The 'oldest of the award-winning oldsters is 115, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. Seventeen winners are 100 years old or older and 72 are women, it added. The aim of the awards is to promote old people's physical health through a nationwide awareness campaign. To be eligible for an award, a person must be at least 80 years old, enjoy physical exercise and care about the next generation, the report said.

Dancing cops ease Bangkok traffic tensions

BANGKOK (R) — Sergeant Nikorn Pasuk puts on his uniform, straps on his pistol, slips into his gloves and laces up his dancing boots before going to work as a traffic policeman on Bangkok's clogged streets. Light on his toes despite the clunky boots, Sgt. Nikorn twists and turns and makes intricate arm movements with white-gloved hands — while directing traffic on one of Bangkok's busy thoroughfares. He is one of a small group of dancing policemen who are trying to change a negative image of Bangkok policemen and ease driver tensions by dancing as they direct traffic. "I think this is one of the things we can do to make drivers relax and be happy when they get stuck in traffic," Sgt. Nikorn said Tuesday after smiling his way through a rainy morning shift. The dancing traffic policemen idea was the brainchild of traffic inspector, Lieutenant Colonel

